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Retired church planter grows another at Crescent Valley

By Clay Renick

CRESCENT VALLEY, Nev. — The brick was wedge-shaped with a name carved in the middle.

"You see that?" asked Ed Farr. "A hundred years ago, we had 40,000 Chinese working in the gold mines of Crescent Valley. When the work slowed, they made brick. T. S. Carr made this one, and I'm changing it to Ed Farr and planting it in front of my mobile home."

Farr, 80, is a Mission Service Corps volunteer from Meridian, Miss. He organized ten churches, retired as the only white teacher in an all-black high school and was the justice of the peace in Kemper County, Miss.

Now he's the pastor of the Crescent Valley Baptist Church. Members meet in an old railroad section house, in an unincorporated town of 300, with one grocery store and branch post office, two taverns, 60 miles southeast of Elko.

"We couldn't even find Crescent Valley on the map until we stopped at Salt Flat and saw it on the bulletin board," recalled Farr.

He walks erect, almost bowlegged. At first meeting he ran out of his mobile home and shouted: "Put 'er there brother! Common shake! Give me all you got 'cause I'm coming back at you. Ha! What'd you think of

that? Not bad for an old man. You probably thought I was a push-over."

He was born in January 1904 as the third son of a broom salesman, and was delivered by his father.

"There wasn't time to saddle a horse or get a doctor," his father told him later. "You just popped out. No labor, or pain or wait. You were ready."

In December of the same year, Farr developed bronchial pneumonia in both lungs.

"That was a time when folks didn't have the drugs to treat it," Farr explained. "Most babies with double pneumonia died."

The sickness progressed. A doctor was summoned and sat beside the cradle as Farr's breathing slowed, then stopped.

"This baby's dead," said the doctor. He stood up and walked out to the buggy, then took the money handed to him. "I'll send for the undertaker," he told the father.

Meanwhile, Farr's mother was back in the room, and lifted the baby toward the ceiling.

"Oh, Lord," she cried. "I dedicate this baby to you for missions. Please bring him back and use him."

He lived.

And he did go into missions. He went on to plant ten churches up the Mississippi delta, many under brush arbor lean-to's that developed into strong outreaches with their own missions. From 1941 to 1947 he only preached in churches that he had organized.

Farr's mother never told him about his infant near-death experience until he was 45, a granddad himself, and due to finish seminary the next year. Scarred bronchial tubes make his voice sound coarse and dry.

In 1981 Farr joined the Mission Service Corps, a Southern Baptist volunteer program where people raised their own support for one or two years of service in the field. Farr and his wife, Mary, spent 14 months at the First Southern Baptist Church of Pearl Harbor, and now work without a salary at Crescent Valley.

"People don't realize that if you just let God meet your needs, you'll never want. Folks think they got to help Him out. He don't need your help."

When Farr arrived at the church in August 1983, the associational missionary, Tom Bacon, told him the



Ed Farr, a Mission Service Corps pastor at Crescent Valley Baptist Church in Crescent Valley, Nev., shares about Jesus Christ with a young man during a break at Vacation Bible School.

church had trouble holding services in winter because the heater didn't work.

"He told me to go out and buy another heater," said Farr. "But we didn't have any money. So I took it before the Lord, then called a repairman out of Elko."

"He was an Indian man," continued Farr, "and said there was no way to fix the heater. It had brass parts and was given to the church 25 years ago."

"I prayed, 'Oh Lord . . . please don't let that man go without that heater burning.'"

"He worked for a while, then said he was hungry and went out to the truck for a sandwich. I went in the house. Later he finished and said it was running. I paid him and he left."

"Now I got to thinking, 'What did that man do to fix it?' Several months later I was in Elko and stopped by the gas company. In front of the manager and office staff I asked the man, 'Just what did you do to fix that heater?' He said, 'I don't know. I honestly don't know.'"

Fire is a major problem in Crescent Valley, especially in summer when lightning strikes the ground igniting the grass. Farr recently mowed the two-and-a-half acre lot around the Crescent Valley Baptist Church, an area he said, "hasn't been mowed since God made this earth."

"I'm fighting the fire ahead of the fire," he explained. "If lightning hit in this area it would burn the church down, an old shack, covered in metal siding, with a brown cross painted on the side."

"In my dreams I can see a lovely church out there," he said, pointing towards the opening desert, sprinkled with mobile homes and chicken coops, "where a preacher who was called would feel that he was coming somewhere, with people already working to advance the kingdom."

"You know people perish when they don't have a vision . . ."

Clay Renick, MSC Communication Team, writes for the Home Mission Board.



Rebecca goes to the convention

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Pounders brought their daughter, Rebecca, to Jackson last week when they attended the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Here they have just picked her up from the child care center provided during the sessions, bundled her into her coat and hat, and stopped to talk with friends in front of the chapel of First Baptist Church. Pounders is pastor at Jumpertown in Prentiss County.

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Editorials..... by don mcgregor

Convention of inspiration

A consensus began to take shape concerning the Mississippi Baptist Convention last week, even before the session was completed at noon on Wednesday. The common thought was formed around two concepts—one was that it was a good convention, and that thought was wrapped around a number of considerations—and the other was that President Charles Pickering did an extraordinarily fine job as presiding officer. This, too, was the product of several considerations.

A part of the concept of the good convention was the fact that the speakers were outstanding. From beginning to end, there could not have been a better group of speakers to provide spiritual food for Mississippi Baptists.

From the first Bible Treasure speaker for the opening session, who was D. L. Lowrie, until the final speaker at noon Wednesday, who was Winfred Moore, the speakers were all as good as could have been found for any occasion for any reason.

Lowrie, the pastor of First Church, Lubbock, has been a friend of many years standing from our associations in Texas; but he was somewhat of a surprise to many Mississippians. He is one who has never given thought to achieving any fame but rather has been determined to seek to fill the Lord's expectations wherever he was placed. He has done that very well and now is pastor of one of the top few churches in Texas and the nation. He sees his role, however, as being the pastor of that church and has little interest in being known abroad. Yet his messages were powerful and pointed.

During the course of his ministry he was pastor of First Church, Texarkana, Texas, while my father, now 82, was director of missions in Tex-

arkana, Ark. The two had a brief reunion during the convention last week. While I was not present for the occasion, it has occurred to me that such a reunion between two saints of God, and soldiers of the cross, the older one who has forged his mark and the younger one who is still making Kingdom history and with a part of their ministries having been accomplished in the same area, must have some special significance in Heaven.

Both Lowrie and Moore are West Texas pastors. And, of course, though West Texas is a vast place, it has more than ordinary interest to me; for that is where I grew up. Moore is pastor of First Church, Amarillo, which has been for almost the entirety of his pastorate one of the most missions-minded churches in the Southern Baptist Convention. He has been there about 25 years. His concluding sermon was a masterful presentation though it was a simple statement. Throughout the convention the messages were on financial stewardship as derived from the theme, "Tell the World through Giving."

Moore, of course, was once pastor of Harrisburg Church, Tupelo. And Lowrie married a Mississippi girl.

Two former Mississippians returned to the state to fill significant spots for messages on the program. One, Grady Cothen, is a native son who retired this year from one of Southern Baptists' most prestigious and demanding positions as president of the Sunday School Board. He has also been seminary president, college president, and state executive secretary during his ministry in addition to serving in several pastorates. He has returned home to

live at Pass Christian, and he divided the Bible Treasure features with Lowrie. As is always the case, Cothen's messages were lively and well accepted. He is a scintillating speaker. He is one of several Southern Baptist giants who have recently moved to Mississippi's Gulf Coast to make their homes. The Baptist Record recently featured two—Penrose St. Amant and Frank Stagg.

The other former Mississippian is Frank Pollard, who returned to his former pulpit at First Church, Jackson, to tell of the work at Golden Gate Seminary, where he is president. The presentation of that master communicator made one realize why he had been chosen as president of that institution.

Two more out-of-state speakers came to do a job for us and did it well. T. T. Crabtree, pastor of First Church, Springfield, Mo., and national chairman for Planned Growth in Giving, was a major program personality during the convention, as would be indicated by his position and the theme of the meeting. Crabtree has come to the point that he lives missions giving and is able to inspire his listeners with his commitment and enthusiasm. The same is true for Bill O'Brien, the executive vice-president of the Foreign Mission Board. He makes missions come alive and builds the understanding of the need for support in a world-wide missions effort.

Due to deadline commitments for the Baptist Record, I did not get a chance to hear Bill Nichols of the Radio and Television Commission.

I did hear our own two speakers, however, who were filling traditional spots on the program. Both the president's address by Pickering and the



annual sermon by Gene Henderson, pastor of First Church, Greenville, were highly appreciated and will be printed in the Baptist Record.

We were privileged also to be witnesses to a historic occasion as Rossi Francis, the pastor of the first Black church to become affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention, was introduced along with other new staff members in the state. It was an electrifying moment as Francis was given the opportunity to address the convention for about 10 minutes. He received a standing ovation as he finished. He admitted that he had not wanted to come to Mississippi but couldn't get away from God. He told how he has now come to appreciate Mississippi Baptists and pointed out that he can go where others of us can't.

It was a calm convention. Divisive issues were looked at and set aside or

considered but always with reasonableness by all who chose to speak. And President Pickering made sure that all who wanted to speak were given the opportunity, even if it meant rearranging the program. The one single appraisal from all concerning his efforts as presiding officer was that he had been fair. This, no doubt, had a great impact on the serene nature of the convention. Decisions were made. Some votes were close. All of the votes were accepted in good faith, and the convention moved on. It was an exercise in Baptist democracy. It was an inspiring meeting and should serve as a model for the future as planners seek to provide inspiration to feed the souls of pastors in view of the decision not to pursue the idea of having a separate pastors' conference. This was a good convention for such a decision to be made.

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Guest opinion . . .

The Southern Baptist Convention business

By Owen Cooper
An eight-part series
Part 7

At its annual meeting, the Southern Baptist Convention transacts business. The sources of the matters considered by the convention generally come from one of the following:

- Recommendations from the Executive Committee.
- Recommendations from the various agencies.
- Motions introduced by messengers.
- Resolutions introduced by messengers.
- Old business and reports on prior referrals.

The recommendations of the Executive Committee, including the proposed budget; recommendations from agencies, if any; and reports on prior referrals are printed in the Book of Reports. Any messenger may make a motion (and many are made), and any messenger may introduce a resolution (and many are introduced).

Each day a bulletin is printed and

made available. The bulletin carries the title of each motion and resolution introduced. All motions made are referred to the Committee on the Order of Business, which schedules a time for their discussion. All resolutions are referred to the Resolutions Committee (named by the president). Each motion is later brought before the convention, discussed, and action taken. The Resolutions Committee considers each resolution and presents to the convention those they think should be acted upon.

The SBC is perhaps the largest "town meeting" held in the world. There are from 12,000-15,000 messengers, each with the right to speak, introduce a resolution, and make a motion. It is nothing short of a miracle that the system works. Robert's Rules of Order prevail, but in a meeting this large, orderliness among the messengers is more important than the rules of order. Continued trends toward disorderliness

could disrupt the convention.

Most of the tension results from controversial motions and resolutions. At times, the debate on these becomes acrimonious with voices lifted. Much of the business is transacted with less than a majority of the messengers present, and sometimes the winning vote is cast by less than 15 percent of the registered messengers. A study of the voting indicates that in Kansas City, during the election of the president, there were 14,740 votes cast (92 percent of the messengers). Later, only 4,991 votes (30 percent of the messengers) were cast in electing the first vice-president. Typical of the balloting were 6,810 votes cast (40 percent of the messengers) on a proposed amendment to the abortion resolution. The amendment was defeated by receiving 3,316 votes (20.6 percent of the messengers).

When resolutions are considered, it is announced they are not binding on

any church and simply express the feeling of the majority of those present and voting. In recent years, several resolutions have been highly controversial. Some have proposed that for the next few years the matter of adopting resolutions be suspended to promote healing.

The time may come when motions should be submitted to an appropriate, designated committee for screening out of those that are frivolous, not germane, accusatory in nature, or of a non-related subject matter.

It was recently reported in the Baptist Standard that the young daughter of a Southern Baptist was asked by a friend, "Why do you Baptists meet every year?" The daughter replied, "So we can fight with each other."

If there's controversy at the convention, controversy will be reported; if there's harmony at the convention, harmony will be reported; if the

(Continued on page 14)

Youth evangelism meet set for Dec. 27-28

Mississippi Baptists' Youth Evangelism Conference, an annual occasion during the Christmas season, will be Dec. 27 and 28 at the Mississippi College Coliseum in Clinton.

Registration is open and will con-

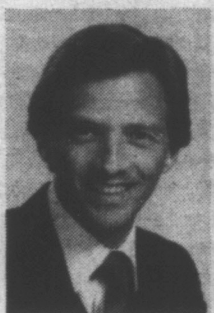
Drace is a native of Kentucky, but he was graduated from high school in Tennessee and has a bachelor of science degree from Union University in Jackson, Tenn. He is also a graduate of Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky. In addition to



Fagan



Watson



Drace



Miss Geddie



Malone



Fields

tinue through the conference, but pre-registration may be accomplished through Dec. 14 by writing the Mississippi Baptist Evangelism Department.

Attendance usually runs from 2,000 to 3,000, so pre-registration could save long lines at the door, Evangelism Director Guy Henderson pointed out. The address is Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205.

Program personalities include Jerry Drace, an evangelist of Jacksonville, Fla.; Julian Fagan III, pastor of First Church, Pontotoc; Wayne Watson, a musician of Nashville, Tenn.; and Wanda Gayle Geddie, who is the immediate past Miss Mississippi and a graduate of William Carey College. She was the third alternate to Miss America in 1984.

pastorates and other church staff positions he has been a full-time evangelist since 1975. He has conducted 180 revivals or crusades and has been involved in three foreign crusades.

Watson is a vocalist, songwriter, and producer. He has been engaged in a full-time music career since 1978, and he performs about 150 concerts a year.

Fagan has a law degree from the University of Mississippi and practiced law in Amory from 1973 to 1981. He also has a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Mississippi with majors in English, political science, and sociology. He was graduated from high school in Laurel.

Before he began his law practice, Fagan was a professional football player from 1970 to 1974 with the New Orleans Saints and the New York Jets.

He was graduated from Southwestern Seminary with a master of divinity degree in 1983.

The theme for the conference will be "Run for the Prize." Bruce Fields, minister of youth and activities at First Church, Biloxi, will lead the singing. Rich Malone, minister of youth and recreation at Calvary Church, Tupelo, will presided.



Rossi Francis, pastor of Faith Obedience Church in Biloxi, presents a testimony during Convention Board evening at the convention. Francis had just been introduced as the pastor of the first Black church to affiliate with the convention.



Grady Cothen, recently retired president of the Sunday School Board and now a resident of Pass Christian, delivered the Bible Treasure messages during the last three sessions of the convention.

The Baptist Record

MBC welcomes first black church, establishes endowment goal

By Don McGregor

Mississippi Baptists welcomed the first Black church to affiliate with the convention, established a \$40 million endowment campaign for four institutions, gave a great deal of attention to Planned Growth in Giving and adopted a basic budget of \$17.5 million last week during their convention in Jackson.

They decided against establishing a pastors' conference but did decide to extend their plan for increasing the percentage of missions offering going outside the state by one-half of one percent per year until the year 2000. The plan originally adopted in 1974 would have expired this year.

There were 1,579 registered for the Mississippi Baptist Convention, held last week at First Church, Jackson. This is nine fewer registrants than the record number who registered last year. These messengers elected five officers without an opposing nomination or vote. Charles Pickering, Laurel attorney, was re-elected to his second term as president. Elected first vice-president was Bobby Perry, director of missions for Gulf Coast Association. As second vice-president the messengers elected the first woman to be named to that high an office, Mrs. Joan Tyler of Collins. In each case the secretary of the convention, Clark Hensley, cast the vote of the convention for those elected. Also re-elected were Hensley as recording secretary and Paul Harwood, pastor of College Hill Heights Church, Oxford, as assistant recording secretary.

During the convention it was announced that the Christian Action Commission of the convention had named Hensley as executive director emeritus of that commission.

During the Convention Board portion of the convention program, churches that had come into the Mississippi Baptist Convention fellowship dur-

ing the past year were recognized by John McBride, director of the Cooperative Missions Department. There were 21, and among them was the first Baptist church to be a part of the fellowship. Rossi Francis, pastor of the church, was recognized for a testimony; and it turned out to be almost the highlight of the convention. He was given a standing ovation as he finished. The church is Faith Obedience Church, Biloxi.

Earl Kelly, executive secretary-

campaign; 5 named a 33-member campaign committee plus a five-member ex-officio group made up of the heads of the institutions and a representative of the fund-raising agency to be employed; 6. that the campaign committee have the responsibility for the campaign; 7. that Ketchum, Inc. be employed as the fund-raising agency with a total cost of consultant fees of \$492,500 to be paid out of the convention budget during the period; 8. that \$175,000 be



Officers of the Mississippi Baptist Convention for the coming year are, left to right, Bobby Perry, director of missions for Gulf Coast Association, first vice-president; Clark Hensley, executive director emeritus of the Christian Action Commission; recording secretary; Paul Harwood, pastor of College Hill Heights Church, Oxford, associate recording secretary; and Charles Pickering, Laurel attorney, president. Mrs. Joan Tyler, wife of a Collins physician, left the convention before the election and was not present for the picture.

treasurer of the Convention Board, delivered the message of the evening session titled, "Possessed with the Mind of Christ." He pointed out that Jesus emptied himself of his glory when he came to earth but that he was as much God when he was on earth as he was when he spoke the worlds into existence. He noted that ours is an age of vanity and that we are not winning the world because of our own egos. To be effective witnesses, he said, we must be possessed with the mind of Christ.

In approving the \$40 million endowment campaign, the messengers adopted a 15-point recommendation which spelled out the details of the campaign. They are as follows:

1. That the convention proceed with the campaign on behalf of the three colleges and the Children's Village;
2. that the purpose be to further Christian education and child care ministry aimed at winning people to faith in Christ;
3. that the goal be \$40 million and that deferred gifts which are received by the institutions during the period (through December of 1990) be counted in the total funds raised but not subject to the distribution formula;
4. that the institutions forego any separate funds efforts during the

provided from the convention budget for campaign expenses; 9. that the \$667,500 be approved at a cost ratio of 1.7 percent of the campaign goal; 10.

(Continued on page 5)



Joe Tuten, pastor of Calvary Church, Jackson, and chairman of the endowment task force for the convention, makes the report for the task force during the convention. President Charles Pickering looks on.



D. L. Lowrie, pastor of First Church, Lubbock, Texas, was the Bible Treasure speaker for the first three sessions of the convention.

Convention views



The first presentation of special music for the Mississippi Baptist Convention last week was by the Starkville Singing Seniors of First Church, Starkville. They opened the convention on Monday afternoon under the direction of Truitt Roberts, minister of music at the church. The organist for the convention was Bobbie Butler of Alta Woods Church, Jackson; and the pianist was Eva Hart of First Church, Jackson.



The agreement for the \$40 million endowment campaign, which was voted into action last week during the convention, was signed by the seven members of the endowment task force; the four heads of institutions which will be recipients of the endowment funds; Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; and Charles Pickering, president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Shown above during the process are, left to right, Harold Fisher, president of Blue Mountain College, Ralph Noonkester, president of William Carey College; Lewis Nobles, president of Mississippi College; and Kelly.



Larry Kennedy, dressed in suit and standing at left, a member of the Foreign Mission Board and pastor of First Church, Laurel, introduced newly appointed foreign missionaries Frank Lay and his wife to the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Other missionaries are gathered around, and convention president Charles Pickering stands at right.

Extremists in India attack church starter

KARNATAKA, India (BP) — About 140 religious extremists surrounded an Indian Baptist pastor and held him captive for more than three hours Oct. 14, forcing him to write a statement vowing to leave the area.

The extremists, members of the militant Hindu party Rashtriya Swayam Sevadala (RSS), locked themselves and Pastor M. Ramaiah in a village hall and began mocking and abusing him, condemning his church-starting efforts in the state of Karnataka.

Despite the harassment, Ramaiah has remained in the area. After the attack, believers at his church continued to meet, spending two days in prayer and fasting. Classes for church member training, begun in September, have continued.

On the day he was attacked,

Ramaiah had just finished a Sunday morning service and was talking with people who wanted to know more about Jesus Christ when two young people came to see him. They said village elders wanted to discuss the threat of area RSS groups, which have been strengthening their anti-Christian activities recently. Happy for the apparent concern, Ramaiah followed the young people to the hall.

As soon as he entered, someone bolted the door. Believers were unable to get inside to help. They, too,

were threatened because they are considered low caste and are in a minority as Christians.

At first the pastor refused to write the statement they demanded, but soon he realized it was impossible to escape. "They held me strongly, saying, 'If you are not going to write, we are going to finish you,'" Ramaiah said.

The attack occurred more than two weeks before the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and apparently is not related to it.



Dan Hall, director of the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, presented a history of church music in Mississippi last week at the Mississippi Baptist Convention to coincide with the 40th anniversary of the organization of a Church Music Department for Mississippi Baptists. He took the occasion to present books detailing that history to Mrs. W. C. Morgan, widow of the former director of the department; to Gwen Keys Hitt, who compiled the history; and to Anne McWilliams, editorial associate of the Baptist Record, shown above with Hall, who did most of the research for the book and a great deal of the writing. Joy Morgan Davis, daughter of W. C. Morgan, spoke briefly during the observation.

Frank Pollard, president of Golden Gate Seminary, found a familiar pulpit as he returned to the scene of his former pastorate at First Church, Jackson, for a message during the convention.

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MBC welcomes Black church, establishes endowment goal

(Continued from page 3)

that the campaign begin immediately and continue for five years with a preparation and solicitation period to begin Nov. 15, 1984 and continue through April 30, 1987; 11. that contributions be sought from individuals, businesses, corporations, foundations, and churches according to three options — (a) undesignated gifts be divided as follows: Mississippi College — 51 percent, William Carey College — 29 percent, Blue Mountain College — 10 percent, Baptist Children's Village — 10 percent (b) donors may designate their gifts as they choose (c) that donors may specify that their gifts may be used to equalize the percentages; 12. that gifts may go either to the institutions or the Convention Board to be passed on to the institutions; 13. that the convention will have ultimate control of the funds; 14. that all Baptists in Mississippi be asked to participate; and 15. that the Endowment Task Force established last year be discharged and the campaign committee be convened. Joe Tuten, pastor of Calvary Church, Jackson, has been chairman of the task force and made the report.

Discussion of the campaign was lively for a time, and Pickering ruled that the motion to proceed had passed on a standing vote. A ballot was called for, however, and was used. This resulted in a vote of 464 for the motion and 226 against.

Planned Growth in Giving dominated the convention as speaker after speaker explored the theme, "Tell the World through Giving." The two Bible Treasure speakers majored on the theme as did the closing speaker. Winfred Moore, pastor of First Church, Amarillo, Texas, and president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas. The Bible Treasure speakers were D. L. Lowrie, pastor of First Church, Lubbock, Texas, and immediate past president of the Texas convention, and Grady Cothen, recently retired president of the Sunday School Board who now lives at Pass Christian, Miss.

The annual sermon by Gene Henderson, pastor of First Church, Greenville, and the president's address by Pickering also developed the giving theme.

The major address concerning Planned Growth in Giving, however, was delivered during the Convention Board portion of the program by T. T. Crabtree, pastor of First Church, Springfield, Mo. Crabtree is national chairman for Planned Growth in Giving, a nationwide emphasis for funding Bold Mission Thrust by asking individuals and churches to gradually increase their percentages of giving year by year until 2000.

Crabtree said that God didn't make us to be pack rats; he made us to be givers. Most of us, however, he said, have plans to grow in our getting and saving and investing. Planned Growth in Giving, he declared, is a plan to grow in our giving. "Why doesn't God love a cheerful giver?" he asked. The answer was that the cheerful (or hilarious) giver has insight into the nature of God and is in the process of becoming like God.

"The more you give," he said, "the more God gives you to give and the greater capacity you have to receive."

The \$17.5 million basic budget actually represents a cut back from the \$18 million figure endorsed by the Convention Board in August. The trimmed \$500,000, however, was maintained in an advance section that will be added back into the budget in proportionate amounts as it is received.

It was pointed out that the trims were made in the 1985 budget because the 1984 giving was about \$300,000 below the budget figure through October. Even so, it was noted, 1984 giving is running about \$1 million ahead that of 1983, and the 1985 budget at \$17.5 million is still \$1 million more than the 1984 budget. Giving in 1984 is twice what it was six years ago, Pickering pointed out.

Gordon Sansing, pastor of First Church, Vicksburg, and chairman of the committee to study the feasibility of having a pastors' conference, reported that the committee did not recommend having a conference. He noted, however, that in its surveys the committee had discovered needs that were felt by pastors that could be addressed by strengthening the programs of the state convention and the evangelism-Bible conference. The committee recommended that the Sunday School and Evangelism department enlist an advisory committee to help formulate the programs.

This recommendation passed by a voice vote.

The annual increase of one-half of one percent going to Southern Baptist causes will bring that percentage to 43 percent by the year 2000. The convention also passed the Convention Board's recommendation that the nine Southern Baptist trustees elected for the 18-member board for Mississippi Baptist Seminary be elected from the membership of the Convention Board rather than from the convention at large as has been the case.

Roy Myers, pastor of Rocky Creek Church near Lucedale, was chosen to preach the convention sermon in 1985. John Causey, pastor of First Church, Corinth, was named as alternate. The 1985 convention will be held Nov. 11, 12, and 13 at First Church, Jackson.



T. T. Crabtree

It will be the 150th session of the convention and a special observance will be planned.

The 1984-85 committee on committee members were announced by Pickering.

There were John Walker, pastor of First Church, Lucedale, chairman; Mrs. Bill Duncan, Booneville; Ed Cooper, pastor of First Church, Oxford; Jimmy McFatter, pastor of Ebenezer Church, Bassfield; and Mrs. Murry Alexander, Greenville.

The convention passed eight resolutions. They were on appreciation, on appreciation for the work of the Christian Action Commission, on appreciation of convention leadership, on opposing a state lottery, on pari-mutuel gambling, on raising the legal drinking age to 21, on public education, and on Southern Baptist Convention agencies. They are to be found elsewhere in this issue.

There was debate on only three. The one on appreciation for the work of the Christian Action Commission actually was intended to speak against abortion. Discussion on this resolution centered around one of the paragraphs in the preamble which originally declared that "abortion for selfish non-therapeutic reasons wantonly destroys fetal life. . . ." It was amended to read, "abortion except in cases of rape, incest, or to save the (Continued on page 7)

T. T. Crabtree:

Jesus led the way as a giver, not a grasper

By Anne McWilliams

"I have been studying the Bible through new glasses and have come to see the generosity in the lifestyle of Jesus," said T. T. Crabtree in a speech at the Leadership Commitment Banquet held Nov. 12 at Broadmoor Church, Jackson. Baptist Convention Board members and department leaders attended. The banquet launched the statewide emphasis on Planned Growth in Giving.

Crabtree is national chairman of the PGIG Task Force and pastor of First Baptist Church, Springfield, Mo. He said he sees Planned Growth in Giving as an instrument to carry out Bold Mission Thrust. The idea behind this giving plan is for individual families to adopt a 15-year giving-growth plan with 15 annual steps of growth in the percentage of income given to the Lord's work through their church. And in the same way, each SBC church is encouraged to adopt its own 15-year growth plan for the support of missions through the Cooperative Program.

"We must come to see ourselves not as graspers, but as givers," Crabtree emphasized. When we face this challenge, we will recognize the generosity of our giving God, and follow the example of Jesus' generous lifestyle. We must come to the place where we think with the mind of Jesus Christ, where we love with the heart of Jesus Christ."

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Directors who received plaques at the director of missions award banquet during the convention are shown above. Left to right, they are Lavon Hatten, Warren; Bobby Perry, Gulf Coast; J. W. Brister, Hinds-Madison; Glen Williams, Pike; Ervin Brown, Northwest; Nolan Houston, Montgomery; Allen Webb, Jackson; and Arthur Leslie, Marshall.

First awards banquet for DOMs sees honors

Mississippi Baptists' first associational awards banquet, Nov. 13 at Calvary Church, Jackson, honored the states' directors of missions and other leaders.

Recognition was given to associations, directors of missions, and associational program leaders. The following associations received awards.

Sunday School — Hinds-Madison, J. W. Brister, largest numerical increase in enrollment.

Sunday School — Marshall, Arthur

Leslie, highest percentage increase in enrollment.

Church Training — Riverside, M. C. Johnson, largest percentage of enrollment growth.

Church Training — Jackson County, Allen Webb, largest number of Church Training leadership study course awards.

Evangelism — Jackson County, Allen Webb, highest ratio of baptisms per 100 members.

Evangelism — Hinds-Madison, J. W. Brister, highest total number of baptisms.

Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries, Gulf Coast, Bobby Perry, largest numerical increase in resident church membership.

Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries, Alcorn, Nat Mayhall, largest percentage increase in resident church membership.

Church Music — Pearl River, Marvin Lee, largest numerical increase in enrollment.

Church Music — Montgomery, Nolan Houston, largest percentage increase in enrollment.

Brotherhood — Northwest, Ervin Brown, largest numerical increase in enrollment.

Brotherhood — Benton, Harry Phillips, largest percentage increase in enrollment.

Cooperative Missions — Sharkey-Issaquena, Lavon Hatten, highest percentage of churches with missions committees.

Cooperative Missions — Hinds-Madison, J. W. Brister, highest number of churches with missions committees.

WMU — Hinds-Madison, J. W. Brister, highest numerical increase in WMU enrollment.

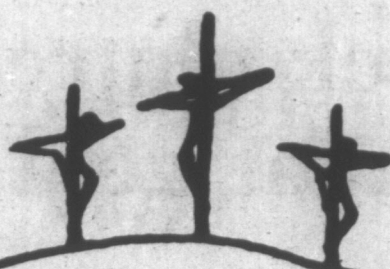
WMU — Franklin, Glen Williams, highest percentage increase in WMU enrollment.

Study Course Committee — Hinds-Madison, J. W. Brister, highest number of church study course awards.

Study Course Committee — Sharkey-Issaquena, Lavon Hatten, highest ratio of church study course awards to membership.

Stewardship — Adams, highest per capita giving to churches.

Stewardship — Warren, Lavon Hatten, highest per capita Cooperative Program giving churches.



The triumph of the cross

By Gene Henderson
I Corinthians 1:18, 2:1-3, 7-10

Introduction:

It needs to be understood that success as the world sees it is not the same as the Bible teaches. The cross of Jesus makes it clear that God's view of success and the world's view is vastly different. The cross to the world is defeat, to Christians it is triumph. Think with me about the triumph of the cross. Look at Paul's comments in I Corinthians 1:18, 2:1-3, and 2:1-10.

From Paul's language it is obvious that the cross is a mystery to many. However, he determined that it would be his primary message. The meaning he saw in the cross can be and must be applied to the conflict and need of commitment that faces the Christian community today. Look first at the mystery.

I. The Mystery of the Cross

Mystery in the Bible is not the same as a Hardy Boy's Mystery book or one written by Agatha Christie. When Paul referred to mystery (2:7), he was indicating something that previously had been hidden but now was revealed. In Christ the veil has been drawn open. We not only see the heart of God, but God also has revealed the way to abundant, eternal life for all men.

Paul declares that the Word of the cross is hidden from some but perceived by others. It is hidden he says from those who are perishing (1:18). The lost world is dying, perishing because they do not understand the triumph of Christ on the cross.

It is hidden Paul says from those who are worldly wise (1:20-21). Those who are filled already, will not receive the truth, especially when the truth is the very antithesis of that which fills them.

It is hidden Paul says to those without the Holy Spirit (2:10). The work of the Holy Spirit is to testify to Jesus (John 16:13-14), to convict the world (John 16:8), and to empower believers (Acts 1:8). Natural man, man using his natural resources, can never understand the truth nor the triumph of the cross.

Although the Word of the cross is hidden from some, it is revealed to others. It is revealed to those who are being saved. The Word of the cross (Gospel, good news of God's Love and forgiveness) is the power of God (1:18). It is the power of God for the salvation for all who believe (cf. Romans 1:16-17).

It is revealed to those who are mature, or Godly wise (2:6-7). Lack of spiritual maturity prevents many believers from experiencing authentic, abundant life. Many Christians labor yet, struggling with the temptation to live life on the world's level, the world's way. Scripture admonishes us to "Love not the world,

neither the things in the world" (I John 2:15). Christians, keep your eyes upon Jesus. Remember, on the cross he died, but he triumphed.

It is revealed to those who have the Spirit (2:12-13). Believers are taught, illumined, and led by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, they understand the mystery of victory through the cross.

The Holy Spirit reveals to believers a great principle which is contrary to the world's philosophy. The principle is success through sacrifice, triumph through trial. The world's philosophy is that "might makes right." Therefore, worldly success depends upon gaining every advantage.

Paul testifies that God's way to success is the opposite of the world's way. The cross of Christ is the supreme example, but the principle is illustrated also in many other ways. Jesus was born in the humblest surroundings, not in a luxurious palace befitting his royalty. His cabinet was composed of "uneducated and ignorant" men, not the sages and religious elite of his day. The Christians at Corinth illustrated the principle because most of them were socially and economically deprived. Yet, by the lowly, God had confounded the rulers and nobles.

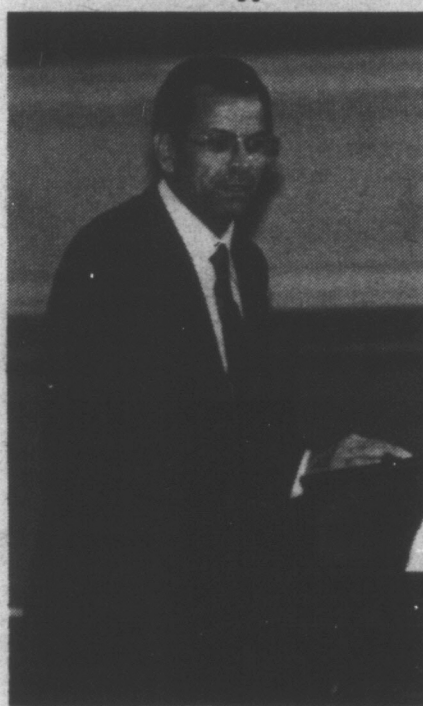
II. The Message of the Cross

The message of the cross is either foolish or divine wisdom, depending upon one's perspective. From the world's perspective, the idea of victory through death is absurd. No less than seven times does Paul describe the world's view of the cross as foolish or foolishness (1:18, 20, 21, 23, 25, 27, and 2:14). The unregenerate of Paul's day could not accept the principle of success through suffering, and neither can those of our generation. Modern man is enamored with the aura of individual rights, equal rights. It is, therefore, most difficult to relinquish anything. The idea of success through surrender is incomprehensible to non-Christians. In fact, some Christians struggle with the concept in their life-style.

The cross and resurrection of Jesus stand as indisputable truth of God's wisdom and power. Whatever God did for and through his Son, he can and will also do for believers. We must believe this truth and practice this truth. "Might does not make right." God himself has said, "Not by might nor by power but by my spirit says the Lord" (Zec. 4:6). Power, authority, control; these are words to describe the way of success in the world. It appears that Southern Baptists need to be reminded that God's mission is not aided best by those we seek to control but by those who are willing to serve. Southern Baptists have never been greater in number, affluence, and capability. However, this great missionary machine inspired and blest by

God through the years seems to be grinding to halt. Can it be that the message of the cross has been forgotten?

At the risk of being criticized for being too simplistic, please note that Paul faced the controversy at Corinth stating, "I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified." I take it that Paul applied this to himself personally. He states as much in Galatians 2:20 and Philippians 3:4-14. In



Gene Henderson, pastor of First Church, Greenville, preaches the convention sermon.

his professional relationships Paul lived out the principle of the cross. In public ministry his message was the cross. In I Corinthians 1:21, 23; 2:1-2 it is clear that Paul believed in the power of preaching and in particular the message of the cross.

Incipient gnosticism can be detected in the background of the problems in the church at Corinth. This complicated syncretistic system of religion and rationale became one of the most threatening forces against the early church. Paul chose to preach the gospel of the cross rather than focus on the errors of the gnostic teaching. It is very possible that Paul's strategy needs to be stressed today. For example, our young people know more about the cults than they know about their own convictions. Our people hear much about Satan and demons and little about the Savior. Conflict, lack of consecration, and lack of commitment in our churches can be corrected best by following Paul's example and emphasizing God's way of success. The meaning of the cross must be applied today.

III. The Meaning of the Cross

Controversy and conflict were rampant in the Corinthian fellowship

which Paul addressed even as it is today in the fellowship of Southern Baptists. The Corinthians were arguing over who would be their leader. Perhaps they felt that whoever became the leader would appoint his henchmen to the key committees and control the church. Regardless, Paul wrote to correct this conflict. His message was the cross. The cross is the common denominator for all Christians. It declares each believer a sinner regardless of rank, station, pedigree, wealth, or anything else. All are judged by the cross to be sinners. No one is better nor higher than another. The cross pops all balloons of ego. Whatever anyone is or becomes, it is by the grace of God and not by personal achievement.

The cross declares who the leader is. Christ died for our sins. Christ also through the cross gave the pattern for all would-be leaders. To be a leader is to be a servant. A certain tension always exists in the leadership role. Leadership requires followship. Leaders earn the support of those who follow by displaying the characteristics of confident assurance and humility. Christ knew where he was going. He was willing to suffer in order to lead others to follow.

Across our convention many church leaders (pastors, staff members and others) are hurting and frustrated. The message of the cross will not change necessarily the circumstances, but it will bring hope and give meaning to the trials they are experiencing. Remember, success is not leading the convention in baptism, having your picture in the Baptist Record, or preaching the annual convention sermon. Success is sacrificing yourself daily where you are in response to God's guidance.

Dark clouds hang over the Southern Baptist Convention. Our greatest day in Bold Mission Thrust could quickly become our darkest night. The struggle for domination in the convention threatens to divide and destroy us. We must rally to the cross. It must be a personal experience for each of us and the leaders in whatever faction there may be nationally or in our state convention.

The Corinthian Christians were weak and immature. They needed to deepen their spiritual life. This need is indicated by their quarreling and jealousy, their indifference to immorality, their disputes over meat sacrificed to idols, their division at the Lord's Supper, and their arguments over spiritual gifts.

Jesus committed himself to the cross. On the cross he gave himself totally for the sake of mankind. Not only has he set the supreme example, but in some inexplicable way his cross enables us to make a similar commit-

ment. Too much comfortable Christianity surrounds us. Complacency marks too many Christians. How can these comfortable Christians be moved to commitment. Not by entertaining sermons, not by persuasive speeches, only temporarily by some emotional appeal. The preaching of the cross contains the dynamite of God. Only God can change hearts. He has chosen to do it through the mystery of the message preached. Greater commitment requires a renewed emphasis on the cross.

Planned Growth in Giving is a challenge for Christians to deepen their spiritual life. It is a challenge to a new dimension of commitment. If it is to be successful, a connection must be forged between the emphasis and the message of the cross. If not, Southern Baptists will see it simply as another denominational program and it will sputter along until another takes its place. But if Southern Baptists are helped to see that Planned Growth in Giving is an extension of the cross, victory can be anticipated.

Paul challenged the Corinthians to grow in the grace of giving (II Cor. 8:7). God gave his best on the cross. At the cross each believer gives himself to Christ. Christians must apply the principle of the cross not only to their heart and life but also to their goods and possessions. Just as Christ gives abundant life to those who surrender to him, he will give abundant prosperity to those who learn to apply the mystery of the cross to their giving.

When Paul wrote with a pastor's heart to a congregation loved by him but overwhelmed with problems, he determined that the primary focus must be on the cross. The mystery, message, and meaning of the cross must become our focus today.

Gene Henderson is pastor of First Church, Greenville.

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Southern Baptist missionaries set to re-enter Mozambique

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Southern Baptist missionaries will re-enter Mozambique in late 1985 or early 1986 when a new missionary couple completes orientation and Portuguese language study.

Mozambique officially became the 105th Southern Baptist mission field at the Foreign Mission Board's October meeting. The board appointed Alabama pastor James R. Brock and his wife, Brenda, to do church development, evangelism and leadership training in the southern African nation.

Southern Baptists had missionaries in Mozambique earlier, but they

departed in September 1975 because anti-American sentiment, then prevalent in the newly independent Marxist nation, made their work practically impossible.

The Brocks will enter orientation at the board's Missionary Learning Center in Rockville, Va., in January 1985, and then go to Portugal for language study the following April. The board is seeking another couple for the same work.

Mozambique, "which has been troubled by political unrest and austere economic conditions, has become a high priority because of 'tremendous evangelistic potential,'

according to Marion G. (Bud) Fray, the board's associate director for Southern Africa.

The Mozambique Baptist Convention, which invited Southern Baptists to re-enter the country, currently operates with eight churches and 26 mission congregations.

Brazilian Baptists have sent a missionary couple and two single missionaries to work there on a full-time basis, while Southern Baptist missionaries and national Baptists in five surrounding African nations have provided hunger relief, evangelistic and leadership training assistance.

Colorado Baptists' hopes for executive dashed

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. (BP) — Hopes for a new executive director were dashed unexpectedly during the annual session of the Colorado Baptist General Convention Oct. 30-31.

Meeting in Bookcliff Baptist Church for the 29th annual session, 344 messengers adopted a \$2.6 million budget, passed resolutions concerning casino gambling and abortion funding and approved further investigation into the sale of the three-year-old Baptist building.

Littleton pastor and former state missions director Don Murray was elected convention president. Other officers include: La Junta pastor Lynn Lamb, first vice-president; Broomfield pastor Mike Ruptak, second vice-president, and Mrs. May Marie Irvin and Mrs. Roy Spannagel, both from Pueblo, recording secretaries.

Plans to present a candidate for executive director Wednesday morning were abruptly reversed at the last minute. "As late as 7 a.m. this morning, we were prepared to bring a unanimous presentation to the convention," said Eads pastor Eddie Nye, search panel chairman. "Shortly after 7 a.m., the man we were to recommend called and said that through prayer he decided he was not the man for Colorado."

Resolutions concerning Nov. 6 general election ballot issues were passed supporting Amendment 3 to stop public funding of abortions and opposing Initiative 5 which would permit legalized casino gambling near Pueblo.

Next year's convention will be at Ken Caryl Baptist Church in Littleton Nov. 5-7.

MBC welcomes . . .

(Continued from page 5)
life of the mother wantonly destroys human life. . . ."

During debate on the resolution concerning pari-mutuel gambling fear was expressed that supporting such actions as seeking to influence the Legislature would threaten the convention's tax advantage.

Finally, during the discussion on Southern Baptist Convention agencies an amendment was offered that would delete a paragraph that read, "THAT we refrain from individual or organized efforts to impose any interpretation of scripture upon the Convention, associations, churches, or individuals." Pickering ruled the paragraph out of order because it called for action beyond the scope of the convention.

During the debate on the endowment campaign, a proposed amendment that the gifts be divided equally among the four institutions rather than by the formula was defeated. It was explained that the heads of the institutions had agreed on the formula. A question was raised also in asking if the impact on Cooperative Program giving during the time of the campaign had been considered. Tuten responded that the task force had considered that issue.

Statewide prison ministry formed

A statewide association of prison and jail ministries will be constituted Nov. 29 at 7:30 p.m. at the Lakeover Church of God in Jackson. All churches and associations involved in jail and prison ministries are encouraged to attend. Additional information is available from John McBride, Director of the Cooperative Missions Department.

Falwell, Kennedy will debate

WASHINGTON, D. C. (EP) — Senator Edward Kennedy and Jerry Falwell will debate on religion and politics at the next convention of the National Religious Broadcasters. The debate, scheduled for Feb 5 at the Sheraton Washington Hotel, will be part of the program of NRB's 42nd convention.

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Bethel dedicates piano, organ

Bethel Baptist Church, Copiah Co., recently completed the 1983-84 church year on a high note by burning a note on a renovation debt, and dedicating a new church organ and piano. The pastor, Duewayne Tullos, expressed appreciation to Wallace Gandy, Sunday School director; Mrs. Melba White, chairperson of the instrument committee; and Sam Farmer, chairman of the renovation committee. Pictured (top) is Mrs. Melba White; (bottom), left to right, are Vance Windom, Jimmy Palmer, Duewayne Tullos, and Sam Farmer.

'Stand up for Jesus' Southern Baptists told

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Southern Baptists must "stand up for Jesus" — not their own special interests — if the conflict in their midst is to be resolved, William H. Elder III told participants in a conference on issues facing the Southern Baptist Convention.

Elder's analysis came at the end of the conference Nov. 2-4, sponsored by St. Charles Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans, where he is pastor. About 200 persons from eight states attended.

"The real crisis we face in the Southern Baptist Convention is a crisis of the Holy Spirit," Elder said. "We are grieving the Spirit these days," he added, noting the political strife which has rocked the SBC for five years.

"Grieving the Spirit happens when people of faith allow their differences to separate them from each other and use their differences to establish hierarchies and power blocks," he said. It also happens when people "simply assume God is on our side and therefore make holy our own preferences and predispositions, instead of making our preferences and predispositions by what's already on his (the Spirit's) holy list," he added.

Southern Baptists are "guilty on both counts," Elder insisted, noting the effect "is to shrink the conduits through which the Spirit's power comes to us when, what we really need to do is to free up the Spirit."

Southern Baptists can do this by

realizing that differences among them are real, by recognizing the sinfulness of grieving the Spirit and by repenting of the sins which separate them from each other and the Spirit, he said.

"The only way we can really pull off this freeing of the Spirit is by 'standing up' not first for the Bible or for our history or for our polity but for Jesus," Elder said. "For standing up for Jesus surely means standing up with him as our norm, as our standard, standing by his side." If Southern Baptists truly stand up for Jesus, they "might just see him once again out in front, waving us on, saying, 'Come together, follow me — for I am the way, the truth and the life,'" he concluded.

ACTS airs convention

Highlights of the Mississippi Baptist Convention last week at First Church, Jackson, will be shown on a number of ACTS and other church TV cable systems throughout the state during the week of Nov. 25 - Dec. 2, 1984.

The highlights videotape will feature vignettes of the various sermons, music presentations, summaries of committee reports, and even a few "fellowship" shots after the convention session. Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will introduce the videotape.

The Department of Broadcast Services, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, produced the 58-minute videotape from about 16 hours of video taping done during the convention. Video production facilities at First Church, Jackson, were utilized in the taping.

If other churches in the state have access to a cable channel, the Broadcast Service Department will loan them the three-quarter-inch videotape for broadcast, said Farrell Blankenship, department director.

Those churches scheduled to run the special highlights tape are as follows:

City	Date	Time	Cable channel
First Church	Nov. 27	9-10 p.m.	Cablevision 10
Yazoo City	Nov. 30	7-8 p.m.	
First Church	Nov. 26	7:30-8:30 p.m.	Community
Cleveland	Nov. 29	7:30-8:30 p.m.	Cablevision 10
ACTS of Jackson	Nov. 28	9-10 p.m.	Capitol
Jackson	Nov. 29	9-10 p.m.	Cablevision 6
First Church			
West Point	Dec. 2	8:30-9:30 p.m.	Cable 3
First Church	Nov. 25	6-7 p.m.	Channel 2
Bruce	Nov. 29	7-8 p.m.	Channel 2
First Church	Nov. 26	9-10 p.m.	G.E.
Hattiesburg			Cablevision 6
Acts of Meridian	Nov. 25	11 a.m.	TV Selection System
		8 p.m.	Cable Channel 11

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History notes 40 years of music

WE SHALL COME REJOICING, A History of Baptist Church Music in Mississippi, compiled by Gwen Keys Hitt, has recently been released from the press. Dan Hall, director, Church Music Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, introduced the book in a presentation on Monday afternoon, Nov. 12, during the meeting of the state Baptist convention.

The history celebrates the 40th anniversary of the department. Three men have served as directors of the Church Music Department. They are the late Luther Harrison, the late W. C. Morgan, and Dan C. Hall.



Mrs. Davis

Mrs. Hitt

Copies of the history were presented to Mrs. W. C. Morgan of Jackson and to Joy Morgan Davis of Dallas, Tex. Mrs. Davis responded, recalling in a brief vignette some memories of her father, Mrs. Luther Harrison, who lives in California, was unable to be present.

Also a book was presented to Anne Washburn McWilliams, editorial associate, the Baptist Record, who

did the major portion of the research for the years, 1945-75.

Mrs. Hitt, the compiler, of Collins, is a specialist for the Church Music Department in the field of small church and associational work. Formerly she worked with Church Music for six years as a clinician for children's choir leadership clinics and as a writer for various assignments. She has been a choral teacher in high school, a mental health worker, radio news director, newspaper correspondent, kindergarten music teacher, and minister of music. Her husband, Irving, is administrator of the Covington County Hospital at Collins.

Other contributors include Inez Harpole Curry Crocker of Bruce, former music director at First Church, Eupora; James C. Downey, administrative dean, William Carey College on the Coast and a former professor of music history and literature at William Carey; Minnie Lee Pryor, Calhoun City, former minister of music at First, Calhoun City, for 53 years; and Frances Weaver Winters, retired professor of music at William Carey College.

The first three chapters deal with Baptist music in Mississippi from 1780 until 1945. Then succeeding chapters follow the progress of the Church Music Department from its organization in 1945 until the present. Many photographs are included.

The price is \$7.50. Copies may be ordered from Church Music, Box 530, Jackson MS 39205.

Worshippers uncowed

Cows eat up church

LIVUYU, South West Africa (BP) — When animals or people get hungry enough, they've been known to eat almost anything. But members of a struggling little Baptist congregation in the bush area of northern South West Africa didn't expect cows to eat their church.

Most of the congregation are refugees who have fled fighting in their country of Angola. Others are local inhabitants of the finger of land projecting out of the Kavango-Capri Strip of South West Africa (also called Namibia).

They've faced a common problem — drought-related hunger. And they've had a common desire — to build a church in which to worship God.

Not long ago, they set out proudly to build that church, cutting poles in the forest to implant as walls and old dried cornstalks to tie onto the poles. They added a thatched roof, a pulpit made of reeds from the river's edge and benches of tree limbs held on limb forks.

Southern Baptists missionary Carlos Owens came to lead their first service, attended by the happy congregation and a chicken which nestled by the missionary's feet. Twenty believers were baptized and the Livuyu Baptist Church was organized.

Two months later, Owens returned for teaching and preaching. He was astonished to see the walls missing. Only bare poles held up the thatched roof. "Oh, missionary, look at our church," a church leader cried as he ran to greet Owens. "The cows were so hungry they ate up our church."

Animals as well as people have to do the best they can for themselves in times of drought. So the people went back to the drawing board to design a cow-proof church. When Owens returned for his next visit, they had covered the structure with heavy, inedible reeds from the river's edge.

Suggestions welcomed for sesquicentennial

The committee on order of business for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board has begun to give consideration to the convention program for 1985, which will be the 150th session of the convention.

The committee has pointed out that it would appreciate having suggestions for this sesquicentennial observance. They would appreciate suggestions for a scripture passage to use for a theme, according to Larry Kennedy, chairman of the committee and pastor of First Church, Laurel. They

are also interested in developing a slogan for the special observance as well as any suggestions for a program emphasis, Kennedy said.

Suggestions may be mailed to Kennedy at the church or to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205.

Other members of the committee are George McFadin, Horn Lake; Gordon H. Sansing, Vicksburg; J. W. Brister, Jackson; Ronnie Massey, Meridian; and Mrs. James Yates, Yazoo City.

Kenya: sermons not censored

NAIROBI, KENYA (EP) — President Arap Moi of Kenya recently assured churches that his government has no intention of censoring sermons. This statement was in reaction to an existing prohibition of live broadcasts of worship by government radio stations announced by the Kenyan Parliament.

The prohibition was announced after complaints about a sermon by Timothy Murere Mjoya, which parliamentarians said was too political. In his July 8 sermon, Mjoya asked listeners to pray for former minister Charles Njonjo, who is being investigated for alleged subversive activities.

Revival Dates

Meadowview, Starkville; Nov. 29-Dec. 1; Wayne A. Barber, pastor, Woodland Church, Chattanooga, Tenn., evangelist; Bob Johnston, minister of music, Meadowview, music director; Thursday, 7 to 9 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 7 to 9 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 12 noon; L. J. Brewer, pastor.

Calvary, Meridian: Dec. 2-6; Homer Martinez of Dallas, Tex., evangelist; Sonny Rios, music evangelist; W. Otis Seal, pastor; Sunday morning at 9:45 in the church sanctuary; Mon.-Thurs. at 10:30 a.m.; Sunday night at 7:30; week nights at 7 in the Calvary Annex Auditorium (Old Chalk School Auditorium); "Chalk School homecoming" service to be held in the Chalk School Auditorium at 7:30 Sunday, Dec. 2; fellowship time at 8:30, Dec. 2. All former Chalk School pupils, teachers, or workers will be recognized at each service.

Accused Salvadoran pastor in Mexico seeking refuge

MEXICO CITY (BP) — A Baptist pastor deported from El Salvador for alleged ties to Marxist rebels is now staying at the Swedish embassy in Mexico City while he seeks refuge in a country willing to accept him.

Miguel Castro Garcia was arrested in San Salvador Oct. 28 and put on a plane two days later, reportedly headed for Sweden. The plane stopped in Mexico City and Castro was temporarily admitted to the Swedish embassy there. He has until Nov. 19 to gain sanctuary in Mexico or another country in the region, according to American Baptist officials. Otherwise he must continue on to Sweden.

He does not plan to move his family from El Salvador until he knows where he will be living, said Victor Mercado, Latin America director for American Baptist Board of International Ministries. Castro also has applied for admission to the United States and Canada.

Castro, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in San Salvador, was arrested by plainclothes policemen as he drove home from church services. He was later accused of "being an active member of a subversive

organization," according to the U.S. State Department.

U.S. officials reportedly told an American group protesting the arrest Castro had admitted to Salvadoran police that "aides" in his church's work with refugees possibly had contacts with rebels. Castro has charged he was blindfolded by police and forced to sign a statement confessing rebel connections, according to American Baptist official Mercado.

But Mercado said police officials in San Salvador have told Baptist leaders there that they are now "studying the possibility of allowing (Castro) to come back to El Salvador . . . They haven't found anything to accuse him and to charge him with yet."

Castro's church is affiliated with the Baptist Association of El Salvador, which relates closely to the American Baptist denomination in the United States. Association leaders have denounced Castro's arrest and deportation, as have leaders of American Baptists, the Baptist World Alliance, Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, and numerous religious and human rights groups in the United States and Europe.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances.

Confusing message

Editor:

Sir, your messages have confused me. Your editorial on Sept. 6 encourages me to stay out of stores on Sunday, yet on Page 9 you encourage me to attend a cash and carry sale at the Baptist Book Store on Sunday, Sept. 9, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tell me again what I am to do. I'm receiving conflicting messages.

Les Hatcher
Lucedale

First let me express appreciation to you for having read the BAPTIST RECORD closely enough to have noticed that contradiction. Whether people agree with us or not, we are always grateful when they read the paper.

Second, I can tell you that there is, thankfully, a very simple explanation. The second instance about the bookstore having a sale on Sunday was an error. The sale was on the 10th rather than the 9th. There was no time to correct it. The bookstore manager had called past the deadline,

actually, to try to get that word in. We tried to do him a favor by ignoring our own rules. We got caught. It is somewhat embarrassing to me, for I am the one who took the information over the phone and made the error.

— Editor

Inerrancy not the issue

Editor:

There is so much to agree with in Bro. Irwin's letter in the Nov. 8 issue of the Baptist Record, that I am reluctant to take issue with any of it.

He is correct that neither inerrancy nor the ordaining of women is the issue that threatens our great convention.

He is correct in the hurt he feels, and shares with us, about the direction the convention is headed.

I think he misses the mark, however, by blaming both sides of the controversy and is absolutely wrong in faulting the president of our seminaries.

I have sensed some of this "a plague on both your houses" approach in your position, as well. If I am mistaken, I would be delighted to be set straight.

The great and historic tradition of pluralism and individual soul competency has served us well throughout our convention's history. I can remember fiery preachers in my

youth shouting, "no creed but Christ, no book but the Bible." We need fearless leaders now who are willing to stand up and say to the fundamentalists who would take our convention away from us: There ain't nobody who can tell me what I've got to believe to be a Southern Baptist.

For presidents of great institutions to defend their faculties and to point out the admitted tactics and aims of those who seek to "go for the jugular" who have attempted to smear the reputations of great teachers with unfounded charges of liberalism, modernism, and worse, is in no sense of the word "mudslinging."

Bro. Irwin is right, also, when he says the answer is that we love one another. I would add that it is necessary that we respect one another as well. I have said to fundamentalists, and know others have as well, that I respect their right to believe as their mind and conscience dictate and that I can love them and continue to work with them.

J. Frank Norris failed because great men of God, such as George W. Truett, stood tall against him. We must oppose the neo-Norrisites with vigor and love equal to that of our spiritual forebears.

Tom Sims, Richton

Faces And Places

by anne washburn mcwilliams

What is Thanksgiving?

What is Thanksgiving? Tanya Tullus wrote (when she was in sixth grade at Pelahatchie Middle School), "Thanksgiving is when you have turkey and dressing. It's when you invite your kinfolks to come over. The girls play doll house, and the boys play football, baseball or basketball."

"Then it is time to eat. You eat crabapple sauce, dressing, vegetables and fruit. Now your aunt or somebody brings out the turkey. MMMMM, it smells so good! I love the dessert — pecan pie. After we eat, we go back and play. Daddy takes a nap on the couch and Mama drinks coffee and eats cake with her friends."

One of Tanya's aunts, Billie Tullus, invited W. D. and me to come to the Thanksgiving gathering with her and Lavell at Hermanville. That would be great, judging from last year's extravaganza, but we had already accepted an invitation to spend the holiday in Hogansville, Ga. with Luann and Bubba Hendrix. They moved into an old house there this year, built in 1890, and have been busy painting and redoing. So our family decided to give them a sort of housewarming. Mama will make the dressing. Betty will bake the turkey. Karen and Tom will bring a cake. I'm on the list for salad and a lemon pie. I guess Tommy and Susan won't be able to come all the way from Baton Rouge.

Thanksgiving is thanks giving. An attitude of gratitude is not important in November only, but we usually stop a little more often then, I think, to express thanks for countless blessings.

"Always give thanks for everything to our God and Father" (Eph. 5:20). Even for alarm clocks? and insurance companies that spring an \$880 deductible on you after you've already filed a claim? leaves that have to be raked? Pontiac payments? "For everything."

And then I remind myself that some people can't hear an alarm clock. Some people don't have a job, and don't need alarm clocks. Some people can't see the leaves change from pale green to dark green to crimson gold. Some people cannot walk or scuffle through the fallen leaves. And yes, I can even be thankful for car payments — for I love to feel the smooth gliding power of that well-built motor.

I'm thankful for wild muscadine jelly, and blackberry, too, on hot buttered toast. I'm thankful for the fun I've been having in Adrienne Moncrief's PACE class at MC on wardrobe planning. Many have no bread to eat, or clothes to choose from.

I'm grateful for a dentist who has bought some new painless equipment, and who hangs such good-natured mottoes on his wall as "Ignore Your Teeth and They Will Go Away."

I'm thankful for Brownie's glad bark of welcome when I open the back door, and for the feel of his rough tongue on my cheek.

I'm thankful to be a tiny cog in the

wheel of Mississippi Baptist work.

I'm thankful for readers like Helen Garrard of Clarksdale who wrote me such a nice letter last week, and for readers who write letters not so nice — because I know they are still reading.

I'm thankful for friends and good neighbors and family, for a Christian mother.

I am indeed grateful for a husband who loves me, who waxes the kitchen floor, and fixes what's broken. I thank the Lord for him every day, not just in November.

I'm grateful for the influence that the church, and people I have known in many churches, Southern Baptist in particular, have had on my life.

I am grateful to God for his providing a Way of forgiveness for all the wrongdoing that keeps stemming from my sinful nature. I am grateful for the reminder that Ruby McWilliams held out to me the other night. I was expressing my grief at the controversy that has been besieging Southern Baptists, and she said, "You don't have to worry. He is still omnipotent." (All 11,000,000 of us might need to talk with Him more.)

The first Sunday in November, W. D. and I attended Harvest Day at Straight Bayou Church in Sharkey County, where he went to Sunday School as a boy.

Two young girls, dressed as Pilgrims, handed out programs and kept the guest book. A grapevine wreath graced the front door. Pumpkins and sheaves of corn and cotton stalks signified the plentiful harvest. A horn of plenty overflowed with fruit. Dinner on the grounds I would not have the space to describe here. Three of W.D.'s sisters ate with us (Etta, Minnie, and Helen) and had contributed to the food.

Harold Jordan from Vicksburg preached. Leslie Hicks, pastor, welcomed the crowd. C. C. Caraway led the invocation. He meant a lot to W. D.'s family when he was pastor at Straight Bayou in 1929. He lives in Canton now. The choir sang "The Old Country Church." Dewitt Hodnett read the 100th Psalm, which to me is the essence of thanks giving.

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. . . . we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name (Psalm 100:1, 3, 4).

Homosexual teachers' rights will be tested at U.S. Supreme Court.

WASHINGTON (BP) — The U.S. Supreme Court announced Oct. 1 it will decide if an Oklahoma law forbidding homosexual school teachers from engaging in "public homosexual conduct" violates their free speech rights.

In a separate action, the high court also agreed to review a Washington

New churches honored by Northern Plains

RAPID CITY, S.D. (BP) — Some 70 new church-type missions which have come into existence in North and South Dakota, Montana, and Wyoming since Jan. 1, 1982, were recognized during special ceremonies during the annual meeting of the Northern Plains Baptist Convention.

In 1972, the Northern Plains convention set a goal of establishing 84 new churches by the end of 1984. The campaign was called Focus '84. During the celebration, Lou Sherrill, WMU president, called the name of each new work, along with its sponsoring church. Those started since the 1983 meeting received banners of recognition from John Baker, executive director.

The Northern Plains convention now has 124 churches and 32 missions, participants were told. Since the first of 1984, the NPBC has been composed of North and South Dakota and Montana. During 1983, the Wyoming Southern Baptist Convention was constituted.

The 1985 annual meeting will be Oct. 23-24, in Emmanuel Baptist Church, Billings, Mont.

Devotional Thanksgiving to God Day

By Nathan L. Barber
James 1:17

Someone has said that preachers are like fertilizer — in a pile they don't do much good. Spread them around and they can do worlds of good! In much the same way it could be said that thanksgiving is like fertilizer. All in a pile on Thanksgiving Day does not do as much good as when it's spread around all year. It's not that a special day of thanksgiving is bad, because it's not. It's just that one must be careful not to forget to be thankful the other 365 days each year.



Barber

Thanksgiving to whom? When people speak of the fourth Thursday in November, it is referred to as Thanksgiving Day. Hardly ever does anyone mention what, supposedly, is taken for granted — the Person behind Thanksgiving Day. It is thanksgiving to whom? It is thanksgiving to God!

If people begin to speak of this special day as Thanksgiving To God Day, then perhaps their celebration of the day would be more in line with what it ought to be. Thanksgiving To God Day is a uniquely American religious observance. From the first one in 1621 until the present, it was designed to be an extraordinary day of thanksgiving to God.

Thanksgiving for what?

From America's celebration of Thanksgiving To God Day, one who did not know might think that it was a day of thanksgiving for hunters, fishermen, football players, cooks, bargain sales, and television. Little attention is given to the fact that it is a day of thanksgiving to God for all his bountiful blessings. It is a day set aside to remind folks of the giving nature of God. The well-known author, Charles Dickens, reminds us, "Reflect upon your present blessings, of which every man has many; not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have some."

It is good for us to remember, particularly at this time of year, that we are the thanks-givers. The text affirms this when it says, "Every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation, or shifting shadow."

Nathan L. Barber is pastor, First Church, Bay St. Louis.

SCRAPBOOK

The first Thanksgiving

The Pilgrim fathers chose a day to give thanks to the Lord For the bounty of their harvest and the blessings from his word. Their tables laden high with food, with friends and loved ones near, They gave thanks to Almighty God for his blessings through the year. Forgotten were the endless hours of heat, sweat, and toil They knew that by the grace of God they had tilled the rocky soil. Despite their many hardships, they were all of one accord That all their suffering was worthwhile if they could serve the Lord. So let us count our blessings on this Thanksgiving Day Thank God for all the things he's done for us along the way The summer's over, the harvest in, so let us kneel and pray To thank the Lord for everything on this Thanksgiving Day.

—Ruth Norsworthy Crager, State Line

Forget not all his benefits

Dear Father, we thank thee for the gift of thy love, For salvation and every blessing from above. We thank thee for the beautiful sky so blue. We thank thee for treasured friends so true. We thank thee for the beauty of a baby's smile, For the little things that make life worthwhile. We thank thee for the rose's sweet essence, We thank thee for thy indwelling presence. We thank thee for the snow so pure and white, For the twinkle to the stars so pretty and bright. We thank thee for the birds that sweetly sing. We just thank Thee, Lord, for everything!

Kathlene Hicks
McComb

Loving the unlovely

I try to love the unlovely ones But know that there must be A wealth, of pure unselfish love And patience Lord, for me. There is a need to understand Their trying, complex way By weaving a little sunshine Into their life each day. Through the guidance of thy Spirit Help me sincerely seek The hidden good in everyone Dejected, cold, and weak! Understanding with love, is joyful, Keep me sensitive enough to care — In them I know there's beauty, Lord, Because you put it there.

—Roxie Barton Jones
Steens

Thanks

Just remember to give thanks each day For whatever comes your way, Doing your best through each test, And God will assuredly take care of the rest. Barbara Jones, Soso

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Staff Evangelist of First Baptist Church of Atlanta

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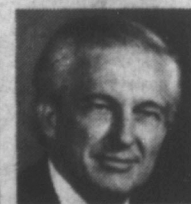
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Roy Fish



Tom Larrimore

Gambling opponents lament 'Black Tuesday'

WASHINGTON (BP)—Election Day 1984 turned out to be "Black Tuesday" for anti-gambling forces as more states adopted some form of legalized gambling than in any single year in American history.

Voters approved gambling proposals in five of seven elections around the country.

The only defeats for the gambling industry were casino votes in Arkansas and Colorado. Voters in Hot Springs, Ark., rejecting a return to the wide-open gambling status which prevailed until the 1950s, turned down the casino proposal by a "no" vote of 55 percent.

A casino proposal in Pueblo, Colo., also was defeated.

The big winner of the day was the lottery industry, which scored victories in California, Oregon, West Virginia, and Missouri.

Lottery supporters in California

spent about \$1.6 million — principally from Scientific Games, Inc., a lottery products corporation headquartered in Atlanta — in collecting signatures to get the issue on the ballot and to underwrite promotional expenses.

In Oregon, lottery backers were expected to spend about \$250,000 to the opponent's \$10,000. Scientific Games again was a major supplier of funds for the initiative drive.

West Virginia voters approved a lottery after a relatively low-key campaign which put to a vote a proposal passed by the state legislature more than a year earlier.

In Missouri, voters overwhelming approved both a state-operated lottery and pari-mutuel gambling. Missouri Baptists had worked with a diverse group of religious organizations to present strong opposition to the measures.

Christ Temple doubles; witnesses at county fair

Christ Temple at Moss Point, black Southern Baptist mission which began services in Moss Point in January of this year, has doubled its attendance since February. Then, 35 or 40 were usually present. Now the membership is 80, with an average of 55 present every Sunday morning.

The pastor, Eddie Jones, reported that on Special Program Day, held Nov. 11, one hundred came to Sunday School, and 200 for morning worship. "Many of those who came to visit that day will return, I feel sure," said Jones.

The congregation meets in the chapel of Pineview Church, Moss Point. It is sponsored by Pineview Church; Ingalls Avenue, Pascagoula; and First Church, Jackson.

Also a Woman's Missionary Union has been organized at Christ Temple this year. Marty Perkins of First Church, Moss Point, has been helping to get it launched. Church Training enrollment is now 30. In the past two months, 17 persons have joined the

mission by baptism and by letter.

"We have a great outreach team," said Jones. They visit the sick in their community, not limiting their visits to their own members. They visit the Home of Grace one Saturday morning a month. They carry on Big A Bible Clubs on Monday afternoons; some of the pupils of this club are now in the Sunday School.

Christ Temple joined this year with Wade Church (H. W. Wilks Jr., pastor) in sponsoring a booth at the Jackson County Fair. "We witnessed to hundreds, blacks and whites," said Jones. Over 100 professions of faith were recorded as a result. "I remember," he said, "that of the many I talked with on the first night of the fair, 14 made professions of faith."

Jones said he was invited to speak to a recent meeting of the Pearl River Associational Executive Committee, in the interest of their starting a Southern Baptist black mission in that county.

Bangalore residents spared much of Indian violence

BANGALORE, India (BP)—Residents of Bangalore witnessed some outbreaks of rock throwing following the assassination of Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi but no severe violence, according to Southern Baptist missionaries in that city.

Thirteen of the 15 Southern Baptist missionaries assigned to India work are in Bangalore, where the Baptist hospital is located. One couple teaches in Kodaikanal, about 200 miles south of Bangalore.

Most severe violence was in the northern part of the country, where members of the Sikh sect, which took credit for the assassination, are more numerous. Hundreds of Sikhs were killed as Hindus sought revenge. The

Sikhs make up a small but influential part of India's population.

The Baptist hospital observed Nov. 1 and 3 as national holidays out of respect for the nation's loss and mourning. A memorial service was held Nov. 2 in the hospital chapel, with all the staff participating. Two staff members spoke about Mrs. Gandhi, and there was a time of prayer.

Rebekah Naylor, mission chairman and hospital administrator, was performing major surgery Wednesday, Oct. 31, when a nurse brought the news Gandhi had been shot by two of her bodyguards.

By mid-afternoon Oct. 31 it was confirmed Gandhi had died in a New Delhi hospital.

Staff Changes



Barrett

Liberty, Rankin County, has called Mark Barrett as interim music director. Mark is a student at Mississippi College, Clinton.

Hurley Church has called Kenna Byrd as pastor. He was pastor of McArthur Street Church in Jackson County and became pastor of Parkway in the same association, when the two merged.

C. I. Miller has resigned as pastor of Woodhaven Church, Jackson County, where he has been pastor for ten years. He previously was pastor of Unity, Pascagoula. He has served as associational moderator, state Convention Board member, and Missions Committee chairman.

Mrs. Helen Rainer has retired after 18 years as church secretary at Grace Memorial Church, Gulfport.

Olivet Church, Gulfport, has called Samuel Ray Henry as pastor. Henry is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. He has served as pastor of Briar Hill Church at Florence and Society Hill near Columbia. He and his wife, both from the Gulfport area, have four children.

Off the Record

Grandparent: "Have I told you about my grandchildren?"

Friend: "No—and I certainly do appreciate it."

Barber: "Your hair is turning gray."

Customer: "I'm not surprised. Can't you work a little faster?"

ABS reaches four billion, still growing

NEW YORK, NY — The American Bible Society has announced that it distributed its four billionth scripture this year.

Four billion Bibles, New Testaments, portions and selections from scripture have been disseminated by the Society since it was founded in 1816.

Included in that figure are 107,929,776 Bibles.

In its first year, the American Bible Society offered only complete Bibles, a total of 6,410 of them.

In those early days most were in English, but people soon began asking for them in French, Gaelic, Welsh, German, and a number of other languages, reflecting the country's then current ethnic patterns.

Work overseas began very soon thereafter.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CHURCH INSURANCE PROGRAM

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Volunteers aid continuing Tanzania evangelism surge

Thursday, November 22, 1984

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Names in the News



Three Mississippians were among 79 persons to receive scholarships for 1984-85 at Midwestern Seminary, Kansas City. Jan Thomas Gregory, a native of Vicksburg, received a \$600 award from the Mildred Lawson Ayres Student Fund. Her husband, Mark Gregory, a native of Carthage, earned a \$1,000 scholarship from the Dunwoody Baptist Foundation. He is associate pastor and minister of music at New Salem Baptist Church, Independence, Mo. Mike Smith, from Caledonia, received the Pleasant Valley (Mo.) Baptist Church scholarship of \$600. He is pastor of Santa Rosa Baptist Church, Pattonsburg, Mo. Seminary President Milton Ferguson (left) congratulates (from left) Jan Gregory, Mark Gregory, and Mike Smith.

Thomas R. McKibbens, Jr., former Mississippian, is engaged in writing a "History of Baptist Preaching," as a project for the Historical Commission, SBC. His research had led him to England and to a year of residence in Boston. This fall, he and his family moved to Wake Forest, N.C. where he teaches preaching at Southeastern Baptist Seminary. He is the son of T. R. McKibbens, former pastor of First Church, Laurel.

Tom Landry, head coach of the Dallas Cowboys, was made an honorary member of the American Bible Society at its 116th annual meeting in New York. He was honored for his "outstanding Christian witness, especially to the youth of America, and his faithful support of the Bible cause." Much of Landry's free time is devoted to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

NEW YORK, NY (ABS) — Mrs. Norman Vincent Peale, author and speaker, Chief Executive Officer of the Foundation For Christian Living and co-publisher of the interfaith monthly magazine, Guideposts, was elected a vice president of the United Bible Societies from the Americas Region at a meeting of its General Committee held in Cuernavaca, Mexico, Sept. 24-25.

First Church, Gulfport ordained Vinh Vo, the new Vietnamese pastor, to the gospel ministry on Nov. 4. David Mi, Vietnamese pastor in Marroero, La., preached the ordination sermon.

Lizana Church, Gulf Coast, has ordained Jeff Ware as a deacon. Charles Rodgers and Harvey Thornton took part in the service.

First Church, Richland ordained Dewey Butler and Don McMillan as deacons Oct. 21. The pastor, Ed McDaniel, preached the charge to the candidates. Both men were presented certificates of ordination and a copy of Robert E. Naylor's book, The Baptist Deacon.

NEW YORK, NY (ABS) — Alice E. Ball, a General Secretary of the American Bible Society, has been elected Chairman of the United Bible Societies Council.

O. Lyn Nations was honored on Sunday, Nov. 11, pastor for seven years at Trinity Church, Rankin County. A special program was planned highlighting his accomplishments. Words of appreciation was expressed by testimonies and song. He was presented gifts from organizations within the church and a money tree from the members to show appreciation for a job well done. Max Jones, a long time friend, was guest speaker at the morning service. The congregation joined Nations, family and friends for lunch and a period of fellowship in the Fellowship Hall.

Shirley Massey, office secretary, Jackson County Association, has earned both basic and advanced levels of church secretary certification.

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FOR SALE: 42 CHOIR ROBES: 3 instrumentalists' robes, medium blue, good shape, \$25.00 each. First Baptist Church, Box 69, Main Street, Okolona, MS 38860; (601) 447-5416.

TUKUYU, Tanzania (BP) — Another round of revival has broken out in Tanzania, this time in the country's Rungwe district, where 3,498 Africans made professions of faith in an evangelistic crusade.

The two-week crusade, planned by Southern Baptist missionary Olan Burrow and featuring a team of volunteers from four states, took place in late September in schools, homes and churches throughout the area.

It follows earlier revivals in which volunteers from the States, missionaries and national Baptists collaborated to record 4,119 professions of faith in the Kyela district and about 1,000 decisions in Bukoba.

The crusades are forerunners of an emphasis in the East African nation which will involve about 21 volunteer evangelistic teams in 1984-85. The volunteer enlistment department of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board will recruit the teams to work

with Tanzania missionaries and national leaders, according to Wayne Briston, the board's associate volunteer enlistment director. Briston participated in the Rungwe revival along with eight other volunteers from Georgia, Texas and California.

Evangelistic emphasis will dovetail with emphasis on Sunday school development in Tanzania in 1985 as part of an East Africa-wide emphasis of Southern Baptist missions.

The week after the Rungwe district revival, Tanzanian Baptists met in Iringa, Tanzania, for their annual meeting and a national evangelism conference.

The Tanzanians pledged at the Iringa sessions to unite their efforts to start new Sunday school throughout Tanzania, renew their personal witnessing efforts and train teachers to be soul winners "shoulder to shoulder" with the pastors, according to missionary Lynn Burrow.

In the Rungwe district crusade, many schoolteachers, village leaders and even some village chairmen—former chiefs under the old tribal system—accepted Jesus Christ. In one instance a young girl chased one of the vehicles and asked how she could accept Jesus as savior.

"One man, over 95 years of age, joyfully accepted Christ in his home after Wayne Briston witnessed to him," Mrs. Burrow reported. "It was an answer to many years' prayer of his children and grandchildren."

Another African man came forward in the crusade to volunteer for service as a foreign missionary and two team members from the States may apply for foreign missions service as a result of their trip.

Mrs. Burrow said the team attributed its success to prayers of Christians across the United States, and especially those in the volunteers' own churches, some of whom prayed around the clock.

Act now, urges missions leader; no end soon for Africa drought

By Mary Jane Welch

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Southern Baptists must act now if they want to help prevent the Ethiopian tragedy from spreading across Africa, says a missions leader who's seen the African drought firsthand.

"There's no end in sight," says John Mills, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board director for West Africa. "We're frustrated in not being able to do all we'd like to right now, but next year is likely to be worse." Both the United Nations disaster relief coordinator and the International Red Cross have issued similar warnings in recent weeks.

Graphic film footage of starving Ethiopian refugees has brought that nation's plight to American attention in recent weeks, but the U.N. Relief coordinator's office has warned 27 African nations urgently need food. More than 35 million people — many of them children — in 18 of the worst-hit countries desperately need help.

Southern Baptists are already helping in many of those countries but had better start thinking about next year, warns Mills. Based on news reports, missionary comments and his own travel in West Africa, Mills predicts the drought will strike even harder next year in the belt of countries bordering the southern Sahara from Senegal to Ethiopia.

"By the time publicity reaches the public it's almost too late," he says. "The frantic efforts that are managed now, while they're laudable, are really too late and are tragic in that it's been obvious that this has been coming for a long time. Already we can see it's going to be there for next year because the rain hasn't come."

Donors are having to use planes to fly in grain and medicines that could have been shipped more cheaply by surface. Hastily thrown-together distribution plans often fail to get the grain to those in remote areas who need it most. Some falls into the hands

of profiteers and some rots unused.

Much better is a distribution plan such as that used in Mali this year by Southern Baptist missionaries Norman and Beverly Coad, says Mills. They began planning months ahead so the grain could be shipped by sea. They involved almost all evangelical churches in the country to see the grain got to the most remote places. And they enlisted Muslim observers on each team to assure everyone grain was distributed fairly.

Even with careful planning, the Coads could not avoid all the pitfalls of relief work. Congress stalled the African grain bill in Congress while debating tacked-on military aid for Central America. By the time grain was released to Africa, it was almost too late. They had to move the grain more than 1,000 miles inland as soon as it arrived to beat a hoped-for rainy season.

Even without rain, getting to remote villages over poor or non-existent roads posed special problems. Regular trucks bogged down in the sand. Distribution teams needed expensive four- or five-ton four-wheel-drive vehicles to cross the desert. They were rescued by Norwegian Christian volunteers who had been provided such trucks by their government.

Money and personnel are two major factors limiting Southern Baptist response to hunger needs overseas, said Mills. The need for money is apparent, but the need for people, especially career missionaries, is just as crucial.

Southern Baptists have an advantage over many relief agencies in having missionaries already on the field with the language and cultural skills to work effectively in a country. But in many of the drought-stricken countries, their numbers are small. Right now two missionaries are in Mali; four in Niger; 10 in Senegal.

The Coads used two volunteers, other evangelical missionaries and a number of Malians in grain distribution, but they are so exhausted now they don't know whether they can undertake a similar relief program again next year, says Mills.

Relief Work is some of the hardest work a person can do, he says. To make sure grain gets to the people who need it, someone has to go where it's being distributed. "So somebody's got to get out there and that means riding those big oldtrucks, fighting that desert sand, going through those mudholes, pushing them out, and 18-hour days." It means spending days and nights on the road — sleeping wherever you can, living off cold canned food, making do.

Volunteers can help, but there is no substitute for the missionary and his knowledge of the country, says Mills.

Volunteers are only helpful in crisis programs if they can stay long enough to learn how to operate with little supervision — at least six weeks — says Mills. Volunteers Howard Mayberry of North Carolina and George Foshee of Colorado signed up for a six-months stint in Mali.

The Foreign Mission Board is not content just to keep meeting crisis needs, says Mills. People in much of West Africa always live on a fine line between life and death. Whereas a crop failure may be a temporary setback for a U.S. farmer, it may mean death for an African farmer who is able to raise only enough to get by each year.

Helping Africans raise their production so there's a little extra in good years to be saved for crisis years is an aim of Southern Baptist development programs such as that planned for the Kenieba area of Mali. And for that more career missionaries will be needed — an agriculturalist, a public health worker and a nutritionist.

capsules

Portuguese Baptists name missionaries

LISBON, Portugal — Portuguese Baptists' Home and World Mission Boards each presented new missionaries at the 51st annual general assembly of the Portuguese Baptist Convention.

The home board presented Samuel de Almeida Andrade and his wife, Indalina, their first missionaries to the Azorean Islands. They will work in the Baptist church of Ponta Delgada on the island of Sao Miguel. The World Mission Board presented Antonio Goncalves, who will be the pastor of First Baptist Church, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Congregationalists form new world fellowship

WENHAM, MA (EP)—Plans have been laid for the formation of a new world organization of conservative Congregational denominations.

"With the formation of the World Evangelical Congregational Fellowship we are coming back to our historical roots," said Clifford Christensen, the executive director of the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference.

"Congregationalists in the U.S. were among the first to engage in foreign missions," according to Christensen, "with the formation of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions after the famous Haystack prayer meeting at Williams College in Massachusetts," says Christensen.

Methodist church upholds ban

CHICAGO (EP) — The Judicial Council of the United Methodist Church has upheld a ban on ordination of practicing homosexuals and, for the first time in its history, has declared that homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. The council's Oct. 26 decision will be into effect Jan. 1, 1985.

Beds for homeless

NEW YORK, NY (EP) To supplement city and state housing provisions for homeless people in New York City this winter, the Partnership for the Homeless, an organization of churches and synagogues, will provide beds for 1,500 people in 90 different facilities throughout the city. Assisting in this operation will be 12,000 volunteers from participating churches and synagogues.

Public and private emergency shelters are expected to house 10,000 people on some nights this winter. The estimated cost for providing these services will be approximately \$100 million.

City and state officials say that the number of homeless people in New York City has increased because many of New York's older buildings have been torn down to make way for new developments.

Scientology church tax-exemption removal upheld

WASHINGTON, DC (EP) — The U.S. Tax Court has ruled that the Internal Revenue Service acted properly in removing the tax exemption of the Church of Scientology. In a September ruling the court held that the controversial group "made a business out of selling religion," and therefore did not deserve tax-exempt status.

The court's decision said Scientology officials "diverted millions of dollars through a bogus trust fund and a sham corporation." The court concluded "A religious organization can have incidental nonreligious purposes and still maintain its exempt status. However, if from its activities it can be inferred that the organization has a substantial commercial purpose, it is ineligible for exemption."

PTL sells

CHARLOTTE, NC (EP) — The PTL Television Network is selling its remaining property in Charlotte, North Carolina, and will consolidate all of its operations 15 miles south at the 2,000-acre Heritage USA complex PTL opened in 1980.

PTL's Park Road Productions, a studio with satellite equipment, office space, and 24 acres of land, is being sold to Bahakel Communications Limited of Charlotte. Broadcasting entrepreneur Cy Bahakel will be making his first venture into religious television production with the new facilities.

The Heritage USA complex is also home to a \$50 million shopping mall and hotel complex which Bakker says is used as a Christian retreat center.

Korean SS materials printed

NASHVILLE—Adult Sunday school lesson materials for Korean Southern Baptist congregations in the United States was used for the first time Oct. 7.

The materials, which parallel the Bible Book Series, were made available by the Sunday School Board's church programs and services language unit.

Ho Kil Kahng, editor and consultant in the language unit, has headed the production process of the new materials.

The process began nearly two years ago when Kahng was employed part-time by the board.

Principal suspended for allowing weekly religion classes in school

KEY LARGO, FLA. (EP) — An elementary school principal in Key Largo, Florida, was suspended Sept. 2 for refusing to stop weekly religion classes in his school. Ed Caputo was suspended for "gross insubordination" when he refused to follow the school board's order to halt the classes.

Local PTA members voted 84-1 to support the classes, which were optional, taught by volunteers, and open only to students with parental permission. The first class included studies in Judaism, Catholicism, and Protestantism. Civil liberties groups opposed the class as a violation of separation of church and state.



20 years perfect

Liberty Hill Church near Pope in Panola County has awarded a plaque to Louis Snider in recognition of his 20 years of perfect attendance at Sunday School. Billy Smith, left, Sunday School director, made the presentation to Snider, right. The church is currently erecting a new education building. Tommy Mitchell is the pastor.

Medics meet in Atlanta

ATLANTA (BP) — Six hundred physicians, dentists, nurses and pharmacists attended the eighth annual meeting of the Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship, Nov. 1-4, in Atlanta. A Jackson, Miss., urologist was elected as an officer.

The guest list included six SBC agency heads, the Georgia Baptist Convention executive director, the current Georgia Baptist Convention president, two former Georgia Baptist Convention presidents and a world renowned leprosy expert, Paul Brand.

Several SBC leaders participated in the meeting. WMU President Carolyn Weatherford, met with the Baptist Nursing Fellowship, a companion fellowship to the Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship. Former SBC President Louie Newton gave a welcoming speech.

The 1984-85 Fellowship officers elected at the meeting included: president, Jack Bennett, a Kansas City, Kan., dentist; president-elect, Dewy Dunn, a Nashville, Tenn., gastroenterologist; finance chairman, Judy Orosz, a Martinez, Ga., pediatrician; service chairman, Curtis Jordan, a Tulsa, Okla., family practitioner; membership chairman, Joel Alvis, a Jackson, Miss., urologist; scholarship chairman, M. A. Winchester, a Whitley City, Ky., family practitioner; student chairman, Raymond Reed, a Tampa, Fla., dentist, and 1986 program chairmen, Franklin Fowler, senior medical consultant with the Foreign Mission Board and Bill Gabenta, director of medical services at the Foreign Mission Board.

Missionary News

William and Josephine Brown, missionaries to Togo, have completed language study in France and arrived on the field of service (address: BP 36, Atakpame, Togo). He is a native of Grenada. The former Josephine Brown, she was born in Eufaula, Ala., and grew up in Clayton, Ala. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1983.

Shirley Jackson, missionary to Brazil, has completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Caixa Postal 950, 20001 Rio de Janeiro RJ, Brazil). Born in Bentonville, Ark., she grew up near Natchez. She was appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1956.

Douglas L. Kellum, missionary to the Philippines, has returned to the field (address: Box 7635, Airmail Exchange, Manila Int. Airport, Philippines 3120). He was born in Clarksdale and grew up in Tutwiler. He was appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1980.

Altus and Diane Newell, missionaries to Switzerland, have arrived on the field to begin their first term of service (address: Gheistrasse 31, 8803 Ruschlikon, Switzerland). He is president of the international Baptist Theological Seminary. He is a native of Meridian. The former Diane Bar-

thel, she was born in Jackson, and considers Rayville, La., her hometown. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1984.

Donald and Barbara Ann Phlegar, missionaries to Thailand, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: c/o Cynthia J. Phlegar, 1221 St. Ann, Jackson, Miss. 39202). A Virginian, he was born in Roanoke and grew up in Portsmouth. She is the former Barbara Ann Carley of Yazoo City. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1967.

Charles and Sheryl Ray, Jr., missionaries to Korea, have arrived on the field to begin their first term of service (address: Yeo Eui Do, P.O. Box 165, Seoul 150, Korea). Born in New Orleans, La., he considers Greenwood his hometown. She is the former Sheryl Smith of Jackson. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1984.

James and Peggy Bartley, Jr., missionaries to Uruguay, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: Pine Trail, Apt. 6B, Springridge Rd., Clinton, Miss. 39056). He is a native of West Point, Ga. The former Peggy Place of Texas, she was born in San Benito and grew up in Harlingen. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1952.

Book Reviews

COUNT IT ALL JOY by Grady Wilson (Broadman, 326 pp.) In the introduction, Billy Graham says, "Next to my father, Grady Wilson is the best storyteller I have ever known." In this attractive and easy-to-read new book, Wilson recounts experiences that stretch from his teen-age days in Charlotte, N.C., until now. In 1934, during a Mordecai Ham revival campaign, two teens — one from the city, one from the country — met in the choir loft. They were Billy Graham and Grady Wilson. Wilson, an associate evangelist with the Billy Graham Team, joined the team in 1947. The book blends the funny with the sad, the bad times and the good times. It is illustrated with black and white photographs and contains an index.—AWM

PREACHING IN TODAY'S WORLD, James C. Barry, Compiler; Broadman Press, 1984; 224 pages; paperback, \$5.95.

Despite the fact that a few years ago an anti-preaching sentiment began to circulate in some evangelical quarters and even in some seminaries, most pastors today would list preaching as the most important and the most fulfilling thing that they do. Growing churches usually have as their leader a man who is committed to the preaching task as of primary importance.

The men who have authored these chapters all share this attitude toward the proclamation of the Word of God.

James Barry, the compiler of this volume, is a pastoral consultant in the Church Administration Department of the Sunday School Board of

the Southern Baptist Convention. His introductory chapter is a summary of the contents of the book.

Eleven men, each an outstanding preacher in his own right, have contributed to this work. Each writer addresses an issue on preaching and then includes a sermon which illustrates the point of his essay.

The subjects of the eleven chapters are "Preaching to the Contemporary Mind" by C. David Matthews; "Preaching and Church Growth" by Calvin Miller, (the sermon in this section was contributed by J. Truett Gannon); "Confessional Preaching" by John R. Claypool; "Parabolic Preaching" by Peter Rhea Jones; "Ethical Preaching" by Cecil E. Sherman; "Shortcuts in Sermon Preparation" by Lavonn Brown; "Coordinating Preaching with Church Objectives" by William E. Hull; "Narrative Preaching" by Alton H. McEachern; "Preaching the Context of Crises" by J. Altus Newell; "Preaching in the Context of Worship" by Robert Bailey. The concluding chapter is an annotated bibliography on "The Literature of Preaching" by William P. Tuck.

These chapters are the equivalent of a workshop on preaching. *Preaching in Today's World* is a welcomed addition to the growing literature on the subject.—Reviewed by Alan Day, pastor, First Church, McComb, MS.

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Just for the Record



"What A Wonderful World" was the theme for the Mission Adventure Recognition Service held recently honoring the GAs of Grace Church, Philadelphia. Front row (l to r) are Jamie Nickles, Heather Holley, Jeanie Nickles, Penny Pickle, Denise Weir, and Angie Sistrunk; second row, Betsy Lee, Denise Thompson, Stephanie Irons, Brandy Burton, Shiela Wells, Stacie Jayroe, Christie Copeland; back row, Martha Duvall and Diane Kilgore, GA leaders. Dennis Duvall is pastor.



Jerry Rawls, licensed minister and member of Oral Church, Rt. 4, Hattiesburg, pictured receiving his pastoral ministries diploma. Presenting the diploma is the Lamar Association director of missions, Douglas E. Benedict, Sr. Pictured with them are Jerry's wife, Margie, and their pastor, Jerry Lennep. Benedict reported that Rawls is one of many licensed ministers who are working toward this diploma through an associational training program for all newly licensed ministers in Lamar Association.



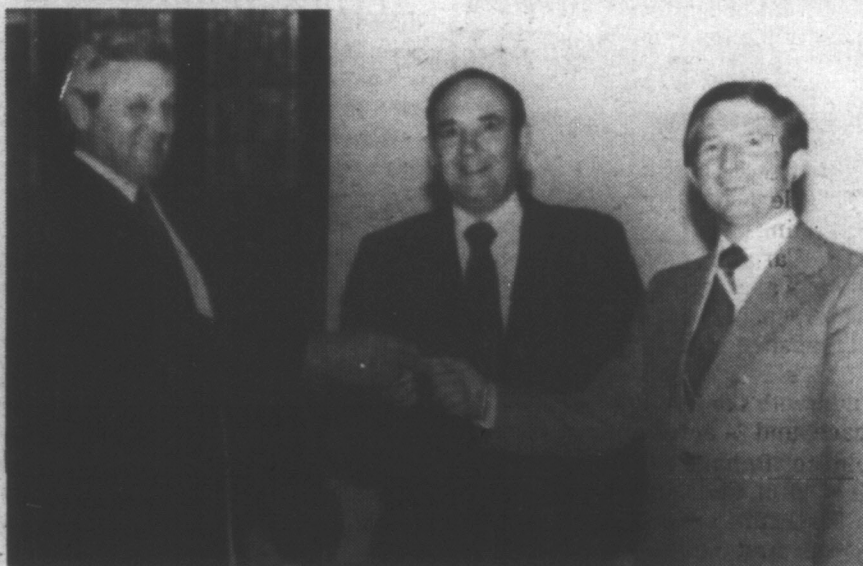
Moselle Memorial Church, Jones County, held ground breaking ceremonies recently. The new facility will be 48' by 128' educational building. Pictured on the front row is the building committee, (left to right) Joe Robinson, Bobby Thompson, John Jones Jr. (chairman), Ned Burris, and Garland Eaves, pastor.



Pictured is part of the crowd who participated in High Attendance Day at Tyler-town Church, Oct. 28. During Sunday School, many members signed "Reach 5 in '85" Personal Commitment Cards. W. C. Burch, Sunday School director and Bartis Harper, pastor.



Big Level Church, Wiggins held its first GA recognition, Sept. 23, the theme was "My Promise To God." RA boys and one Acteen helped to make this recognition complete. Pictured, GAs, first row, left to right, are Cindy Lee, Laura Rawls, Jennifer Loper, and Jennifer Bush; second row, RAs, Jeremy Bond, Jason Ross, Mark Rawls and Jonathan Bond; Acteen is Nita Howe; GA leader, Jackie Berry; Allen Mosley, pastor.



First Church, Okolona, rededicated its church buildings, Oct. 28. The church recently built a two-story educational facility to add Sunday School space and a fellowship hall, which was completed in 1982 at a cost of \$382,550.00. In October of 1983 the church voted to renovate the auditorium and other educational space and was completed in September 1984 at a cost of \$220,905.00. The church conducted two Church Building Fund Campaigns with the aid of the Stewardship Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. The church raised \$603,455.00 above its budget during that period of time. John Herrod, chairman of the finance committee, announced at the rededication service that the church was debt free. Pictured are Skeet Ellis (far left), building contractor, presenting the keys to George Carter (center), chairman of the building committee, and Roy McHenry, pastor.



Highland Church, Vicksburg, recently held a GA recognition service. Receiving Mission Adventure badges were (front row) Michelle Clark, Alisa Jones, Amanda Jones, and Kathy Jones; (second row) Mrs. Judy Wooley, GA director; Amanda Richardson, Amy Hanks, and Mrs. Jackie Richardson, GA leader; G. Ray Ming, pastor.

Liberty, Rankin County, Baptist women made 25 "Love Kits" and have given them to the abused shelter in Jackson. Plans are being made for more mission projects before the year ends such as: a canned food drive for the Rankin County Child Abuse Shelter and also a collection of "Sweets" for the elderly who live at Crossgates Nursing Home.

A group from Cherry Park Church, Clinton, took a trip to the New Orleans World's Fair, Oct. 20. The church had been preparing for the trip over a period of several months with fund-raising activities. Hollis Alderman, pastor.

Parkway Church, Natchez, over-subscribed its record 1985 budget of \$487,049 for the ninth consecutive year. Homer King, director of the Church's Forward Program of Church Finance for this year, made the announcement to the congregation Sunday morning, Nov. 4, Victory Day.

There were a record 579 commitment cards returned, with a total of \$488,810. Highlights included a church-wide fellowship dinner with Bill Thorn as guest speaker, and the children's party for ages 4-8. Over 700 attended these two events. Serving as committee chairpersons for the 1984-85 Forward Program were Charles Cox, Mrs. Len Tinnell, Greg Hudspeth, Mrs. Irene Loflin, Mrs. Barnett Grammill, James Waycaster, Mrs. C. C. Rabb, Mrs. Bill Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Burkhalter, and Mr. & Mrs. Johnny Jones.

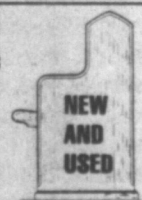
Homecomings

Wildwood Church, Clinton, celebrated its tenth anniversary on Sunday, Nov. 18. Several guests who had a part in the formation of the early church took part in the service. Fred Womack has been pastor of the church for over nine years of the church's ten year history. Womack says, "Great gladness and thanksgiving well up within my heart as I reflect upon all the wonderful things that our Lord has done over these past ten years." Following the service an anniversary cake was cut and served in Fellowship hall.

Corinth Church (Jasper): Thanksgiving Harvest Supper; Wed. night, Nov. 21st; Edd Holloman, pastor.

Concord Church (Tippah) Booneville, Rt. 3, 100th birthday with a centennial celebration on Sun., Nov. 25. Many activities for the day are planned plus a taped message of Joe Crawford (who would be having his 100th birthday), former pastor for 30 years. A noon lunch will be served in Fellowship Hall. A Crawford Memorial Prayer Chapel will be dedicated in the afternoon. The activities begins at 10:30.

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Sunday School launches final year of 8.5 by '85 emphasis

The Sunday School Department has launched its "Reach 5 in '85" for the final year of the 8.5 by '85 emphasis. 8.5 by '85 is the SBC-wide goal of 8.5 million persons enrolled in Sunday School by Sept. 30, 1985. "Reach 5 in '85" is a promotional emphasis designed to involve Sunday School leaders at all levels to set enrollment and outreach goals," states Keith Wilkinson, Sunday School Department Director.

For example, he noted, Reach 5 in '85 can mean the following:

For an individual

- Enrolling five persons in Sunday School during 1984-85
- Making five evangelistic visits per

week, month, or quarter

- Making visits to five prospects per week, month, or quarter
- Ministering to five homebound persons per month

For a class

- Enrolling five persons in Sunday School during 1984-85
- Enrolling five persons per quarter
- Committing five members to make evangelistic visits each week, month, or quarter
- Committing five members to make personal visits to prospects and absentees each week, month, or quarter

For a department

- Enrolling five persons during

1984-85

- Enrolling five persons per week, month, or quarter
- Making five evangelistic visits per week, month, or quarter
- Making personal visits to five prospects or absentees each week

For a church

- Enrolling five persons per week, month, or quarter
- Starting five new teaching units in 1984-85
- Starting five new Bible study groups outside the present Sunday School in 1984-85

"I believe Reach 5 in '85 can provide the handle pastors and Sunday School directors need to challenge their people to get involved in Sunday School growth," concludes Wilkinson. "We have a great challenge. We must revitalize our Sunday Schools to produce the kind of effort that results in people being reached," he said.

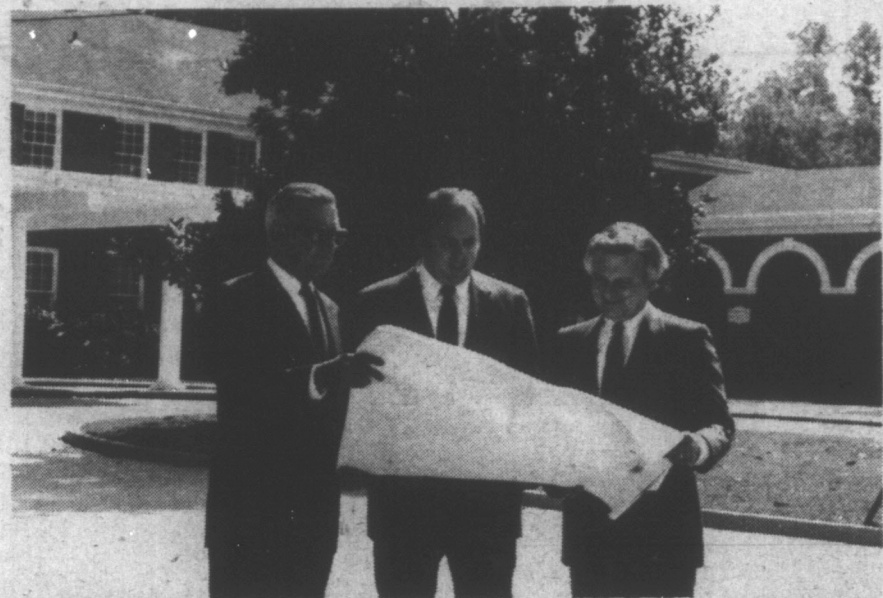
The state enrollment goal for 1984-85 is a net increase of 20,000.

Reach 5 in '85 promotional supplies are available from the Baptist Book Stores.

"Think what would happen if every Sunday School leader, including every pastor, made a commitment to enroll five in Sunday School this year," speculates Wilkinson. "We would see our greatest growth in 30 years — since 'A Million more in '54.'"

'Soap with hope' goes down drain

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA (EP) — "Another Life," a Christian daytime drama that was billed as "the soap with hope," was canceled last month as funding from commercial sponsors fell short of the \$19,000 per episode needed for production. The program was produced by Pat Robertson's CBN Cable Network.



Standing in area where Temple Church, Hattiesburg, will construct a new addition are, from left to right, M. L. Trussell, Building Committee chairman; Harry L. Lucenay, pastor; and Lynn McMahan, capital stewardship campaign director.

Temple pledges over million for construction project

Members of Temple Church, Hattiesburg, have pledged more than \$1.8 million for a construction project to provide new education and music facilities for the church.

Lynn McMahan, capital stewardship campaign director, announced on November 11 that the total of three-year pledges had reached \$1,811,510. These pledges will be in addition to regular giving.

Harry L. Lucenay, pastor, said the church began the capital stewardship campaign on July 15 with the theme of "Walk in Love, Build in Faith."

"People have begun giving toward these pledges and will continue over the next three years, at which time the total debt on the new facilities should be paid," said Lucenay.

He said it is anticipated that work will begin on the new addition during the first quarter of 1985.

Happiness is discovering that the rattle is in the glove compartment.

The less a person knows, the more likely he is to be sure he's right.

The two-story addition will include preschool departments, a choir rehearsal area designed to seat 120 choir members, and new educational space for both children and adults on the second floor. An elevator will be installed.

Lucenay said the total cost of the new structure and some limited renovation of the present facilities is estimated at \$1.5 million. Furnishings and additional parking will cost an additional \$200,000.

"Average Sunday School attendance has grown by about 200 in the past five years to a present average attendance of 823," said Lucenay. "This building will allow us to continue this growth pattern."

Hymn festival to feature Manz and MC choirs

The American Guild of Organists is sponsoring a hymn festival by the world-renowned Paul Manz, to be presented on Friday, Nov. 30, at 8 p.m. at Covenant Presbyterian Church. This hymn festival will feature the Mississippi College Concert and Cantata Choirs leading in the singing of many great hymns of the church.

On Saturday, Dec. 1, at 10 a.m., Manz will conduct a workshop on hymn improvisation at Recital Hall, Academic Complex, Millsaps College. The Guild will receive an offering at the festival and there will be a charge of \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for students at the workshop. Interested persons may contact Boyd Shaw, 366-8939.

—Off the Record—

When his engine conked out, a pilot landed his light plane on a freeway. He jumped out and went over to a car that had pulled off the road out of his way, intending to ask for help.

But the woman sitting next to the driver of the car shouted: "We'll get out of the way, Mister, if you'll show us where to go. My husband is the only driver in the world who could start out on a freeway and end up in the middle of an airport!"

Mississippi Baptist activities

Nov. 26-30 MasterLife Workshop; Baptist Building; 6 p.m., 26th-Noon, 30th (CT)

Nov. 27 Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Meeting; Baptist Building; 10 a.m.



Washington County RAs celebrate

Three mayors, Fred Weston of Leland, W. C. Burnley of Greenville, and Charlie Abraham of Hollandale, signed a proclamation naming Nov. 4-10 as Royal Ambassador Week in their cities. Pictured, left to right, are Roy Raddin, director of missions, Washington County Association; James Kerr, Royal Ambassador director, Washington County Association; and Mayor Weston. Kerr noted that many RA chapters were celebrating the theme, "Strengthening Families Through Missions Involvement."

RAs during their special week helped in their own churches by reading Scripture, leading in prayer, taking the offering, attending Brotherhood breakfasts, and giving testimonies of what Royal Ambassadors means to them. On Nov. 10, Parkview Church sponsored an RA booth in the Greenville Mall. Items on display from the Sudan and Kenya included a map made of an elephant's ear and a footstool made of an elephant foot. Also at the booth were hobo stoves (of gallon cans); a rope making machine (made of three pieces of wood and three coat hangers); and running water in middle of woods made of a gallon jug. The RA motto is 'Help Others in Jesus' Name.'

Southern Baptist Convention

(Continued from page 2)

Holy Spirit is present in person and in power at the convention, the person and power of the Holy Spirit will be reported.

When the early Christians faced a crisis because of the loss of their leader, they assembled in one place, and prayed, and become of one accord, and launched a program catapulting Christianity into a world religion. Southern Baptists' program of Bold Missions Thrust cannot attain

even a small portion of its objectives amid discord, division, and strife. The time has come for each Southern Baptist to lay aside that which divides and to unite in the programs of world evangelism and meeting human needs as outlined in the New Testament.

Owen Cooper, a retired industrialist of Yazoo City, is a past president of both the Mississippi Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention.



Librarians elect officers

The 1984-85 Mississippi Church Media Library officers were elected during the annual workshop held at First Baptist Church, Jackson on Oct. 19 and 20. They are front row, left to right, Patricia Robinson, Immanuel Church, Cleveland, president; Laverne Gregory, First Church, Brandon, vice-president; second row, (left to right), Dee McCordle, Sunshine Church, Brandon, secretary/treasurer; Pat Ward, Meadow Grove Church, Brandon, ex-officio; Donna Brock, Van Winkle Church, Jackson, historian. Not pictured: Mildred Avera, First Church, McComb, program chairman; Juanita Hight, First Church, Louisville, publicity chairman. The 1985 Church Media Library Workshop will be held at First Church, McComb, on Oct. 25-26.

Mississippi Convention adopts eight resolutions

Appreciation

WHEREAS, The Mississippi Baptist Convention having met for the 149th time, and having reaffirmed its essential commitment to the Lordship of Jesus Christ,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That we express grateful appreciation:

1. To our God for His abundant blessings;

2. To the First Baptist Church of Jackson, Mississippi, to the pastor, Dr. Earl Craig, Jr., and to the superlative staff for once again providing gracious hospitality to the Southern Baptist family of Mississippi;

3. To Mr. Charles Pickering for his unselfish giving of time, for his availability, and for his reasoned counsel throughout the year, for his judicious manner in presiding over the Convention, and for his Christian spirit exemplified through his level of commitment to Christ and his denomination;

4. To those responsible for arranging the program and securing the outstanding program personalities who have enriched and blessed the messengers and visitors to the Convention; and

5. To Dr. Earl Kelly and the State Convention staff for their continuing capable leadership given to Mississippi Baptists.

Appreciation of convention leadership

Recognizing the great responsibilities of President Charles Stanley and other officers of the Southern Baptist Convention, agency heads of the Southern Baptist Convention, President Charles Pickering and the other officers of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, Dr. Earl Kelly, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and the heads of the other boards, commissions, and agencies of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, and realizing the tremendous pressures incumbent upon these significant leaders, be it resolved that the Mississippi Baptist Convention meeting in its annual session in Jackson, Mississippi, on November 12-14, 1984, express Christian love and concern for the leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention and the Mississippi Baptist Convention and pray for them as they carry out their heavy responsibilities of leadership.

Appreciation of work of the Christian Action Commission

WHEREAS, Mississippi Baptists have historically held a biblical view of the sanctity of human life; and

WHEREAS, Abortion is a very serious moral and spiritual problem of continuing concern to the American people; and

WHEREAS, Christians have a responsibility to deal with all moral and spiritual issues which affect society, including the problems of abortion; and

WHEREAS, The practice of abortion, except in cases of rape, incest, or to save the life of the mother, wantonly destroys human life, dulls our society's moral sensitivity, and leads

to cheapening of all human life;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That we express our deep appreciation to the Christian Action Commission for the assistance given to the churches and associations of the Mississippi Baptist Convention in their attempt to address this issue; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, That we ask the Christian Action Commission to continue its good work of assistance to the churches of the convention.

Opposing a state lottery

WHEREAS, A campaign effort is being made in the State of Mississippi to popularize a state-wide lottery, and

WHEREAS, there are some people who believe that legalized parimutuel gambling is the hope for their area's high unemployment among the poor and unskilled; and

WHEREAS, The idea of a state lottery is being presented to the people as a means of significantly easing the state's financial shortfall, and

WHEREAS, The proponents of a state lottery choose to ignore the experience of other states that have state lotteries, namely that (1) new revenue raised by such lotteries average only one to two percent of total state revenues and, therefore, cannot be expected to significantly ease Mississippi's financial problems, and (2) new revenues created by such lotteries are more than offset by the costs of additional police and welfare program costs the lotteries create, and (3) the cost to establish, maintain, and fund such a lottery represents a new and regressive tax on those tax-payers least able to afford it;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That we encourage the Southern Baptist churches in Mississippi to formally oppose the establishment of a state lottery in Mississippi on the grounds that it is morally unacceptable, economically impractical, and fiscally irresponsible to the best interest of the people of Mississippi, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we ask the Christian Action Commission to continue a concerted effort to educate Southern Baptists in Mississippi to the dangers inherent in a state lottery, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we encourage Mississippi Baptists to stand united as citizens and voters in their opposition to a state lottery, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, That we support government leaders who stand with us in opposition to a state lottery and commend them for their moral courage and fiscal responsibility.

Pari-mutuel gambling

WHEREAS, there are current proposals being made to legalize parimutuel gambling as a means of raising public revenues in the state of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, through pari-mutuel gambling our government would be in a calculated and concerted effort to exploit human weakness; and

WHEREAS, pari-mutuel gambling would put all of us as citizens in a position of being legally involved in

something that is morally wrong; and

WHEREAS, gambling destroys not only the gambler himself but harms innocent members of his family as well; and

WHEREAS, gambling exploits the poor, increases crime, and encourages the corruption of public officials;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we make clear our opposition to pari-mutuel gambling, viewing it as a danger to the economic and moral fiber of our state, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we encourage our churches to utilize their educational organizations to aggressively educate our people to the dangers and evils of pari-mutuel gambling, and

BE IT RESOLVED, that we urge all Mississippi Baptists to oppose vigorously any attempts by the state to utilize pari-mutuel gambling as a means of raising state revenues; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that we express our appreciation and support of those leaders in government who oppose pari-mutuel gambling and make every effort to serve the people through good government.

Raising the legal drinking age to 21

WHEREAS, alcohol continues to be the number one drug of abuse by all segments of society, and

WHEREAS, teenagers are increasingly turning to alcohol as their number one drug, resulting in an increase of alcoholism before the age of thirty, and

WHEREAS, the alcohol beverage vested interests constantly press for the increased consumption, disregarding the havoc in health, destruction of human life and property, and the economic cost and financial burden placed upon the state by those who consume alcoholic beverages, and

WHEREAS, the legal drinking age in many states has been restored from the age of 18 to the age of 21 by the state legislature for the consumption of all beer, wine, and liquors;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that once again we affirm our position as opposing any use of alcohol as a beverage, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That we oppose the advertising of any

kind of alcohol beverage on television or radio, in newspapers or any media, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we continue to educate our youth and others to harmful effects of alcohol and other drug abuse, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we call upon the 1985 Mississippi Legislature to pass necessary legislation to raise the legal drinking age for all alcoholic beverages from 18 to 21. We further encourage each church to communicate to its legislative delegate their concern about the support for such legislation.

Public education

The Resolution Committee recommends that the 1984 Mississippi Baptist Convention reaffirm the action taken during the 1983 Convention on public education:

WHEREAS, Mississippi Baptists historically have been strong supporters of public education; and

WHEREAS, Mississippi Baptists have been deeply committed to the right of all children to achieve their God-given potential; and

WHEREAS, Our public school system is now facing its most serious crisis in history due to the complex issues of communicating moral values, financing, family breakdown, discipline, the "back to basics" movement, racial desegregation, and church-state problems; and

WHEREAS, Many Baptists occupy administrative and teaching positions in the public school system;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That Mississippi Baptists be urged to pray regularly for those teachers and administrators who work faithfully in the public school system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That while recognizing the validity of the ministry of church-related private schools, Mississippi Baptists be urged to become more involved in shaping and supporting public schools, participating responsibly wherever possible in the local school and in the decision-making bodies which determine the course of public education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we hereby commit ourselves to help achieve quality education for every child in this state.



Clark Hensley, right, examines the plaque he received from the Christian Action Commission with the announcement at the convention that he had been named executive director emeritus of the commission. Commission chairman Ramon Leake, pastor of First Church, Picayune, is at left; and J. C. Renfro, second vice-president of the convention is at center.

SBC Agencies

WHEREAS, The scripture commands us to "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them . . ." (Matthew 28:19-20) and,

WHEREAS, The Constitution of the Southern Baptist Convention states, "It is the purpose of the Convention to provide a general organization for Baptists in the United States and its territories for the promotion of Christian missions at home and abroad and any other objects such as Christian education, benevolent enterprises, and social services which it may deem proper and advisable for the furtherance of the Kingdom of God," (Article 2); and,

WHEREAS, The growth of the Convention can be attributed largely to carrying out Christ's command and the mandate of the Constitution, and,

WHEREAS, The Convention is now embarked on the challenging program of Bold Mission Thrust, seeking to provide every person in the world an opportunity to hear the Gospel before the end of this century; and,

WHEREAS, The Southern Baptist Convention carries out its programs, including Bold Mission Thrust, throughout various agencies which have been established, as needed, from time to time; and,

WHEREAS, the strengthening of the agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention will hasten the day when the Great Commission can be attained and the goals of Bold Mission Thrust reached.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Mississippi Baptist Convention in Annual Session at Jackson, Mississippi, on November 14, 1984, request all its member churches to:

(1) inform church members of the various agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention and their functions within the Convention;

(2) commend the agencies for their commitment to evangelism and missions and their leadership in equipping the churches to fulfill the Great Commissions;

(3) develop a systematic and scheduled program of prayer for the agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention, their trustees, and their employees;

(4) support the various agencies through communication, suggestions, comments, and encouragement;

(5) offer constructive suggestions in a Christian manner; and

(6) support the agencies through increasing Cooperative Program gifts and special mission offerings in a worthy manner;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That we demonstrate the purpose of the Cooperative Program by exhibiting a cooperative spirit at all levels of denominational life; and that as Christians we desist from general accusations, name-calling, and unsupported condemnation, yet retaining the freedom of individual expression based on biblical teaching and supportable facts; and

THAT we seek to conduct ourselves as peacemakers at all time in such a fashion as to claim the blessing of the seventh beatitude: "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God" (Matthew 5:9).